

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

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Email:

secretary@memorialumcaustin.com


Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323



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December 4—Sprouts from the Stump
December 11—Life in the Desert
December 18—What If?

Christmas
Eve Service
7pm in the
Sanctuary



Carols
&
Cocoa

Dec 25th
11am



Church news



Extended Advent Continues

We know that December just seems to get busier and busier. In the church, we celebrate Advent, a season of preparation, and this

December, we invite you to join the flow of an Advent season that sweeps us off our feet, carries us forward, and invites us to join God in God's creative work. We'll trace God's plans for justice and peace with the genealogy of Jesus and the witness of the saints who followed him. We'll be surprised by a thicket of new shoots from the stump of Jesse. We'll find God beguiling us by inviting us to imagine something new, regardless of what came before. And if we're worried about the future and afraid of letting go of the familiar outlines of our lives, God will meet us there too.

The highway has always extended past the familiar exit. The music is already written. The dance is underway. But the moment of change seems to come out of the blue, altering our expectations and creating a future we never thought possible.

It's Advent, and change is coming out of the blue. What will God reveal to us this season?



Office Closed December 23rd through Jan. 2

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



December Birthdays

- 2nd Sandra Bissett
Ron Frederick
- 3rd Caitlyn Dennig
- 5th Drianna Gonzales
Sharon Owens
- 7th Don Mohler
Paula Garner
Harry Pomerleau
- 12th Evelyn Capps
- 13th Michael Moore
- 15th Susan Froebel
Jan Purtle
- 17th Michael Shelton, Jr.
- 19th Kel Pomerleau Bills
- 22nd Lilia Gail Mohler
Jamie Alexander Carl Dahan
J.D. Dahan
- 26th Mark Corry
Laurie Dennig
- 27th Thomas Bissett

Run Off Election

December 13th

7am-7pm

In the Gym





**Margie
Dean
Stalbaum**
January 6, 1933
– November 5,
2022

Margie Stalbaum, 89, of Austin, TX passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022 while a resident at Sagebrook Senior Health Center to be reunited in the loving arms of our Dad in heaven who has patiently awaited her arrival for 2 ½ years. She was born in Industry, TX on January 6, 1933. Margie had a twin sister who sadly died at birth. Margie graduated from Bellville High School. Although Margie had several suitors during her time in high school, her heart was captured by a tall, skinny, handsome, dark haired fella named Werner Lee Stalbaum who turned into her high school sweetheart. The two were united in marriage in Austin, TX on November 11, 1950. Margie, our beautiful Mom was blessed to be a stay-at-home mom for the majority of her 5 children’s lives. Although it was not easy to raise 5 children on a commissioned salesman’s pay, none of us ever wanted for clean clothes, food on the table, clean house and most of all love. In mom’s later years, she did work at Trinity Publications where she was a proofreader of Catholic churches newsletters – I think she “retired” from there at least twice – she was loved so much they kept asking her to come back and Mom, being who Mom is, would go back until she finally retired in her 70’s.

Mom loved sewing, embroidery, cross stitching, decorating her home, music (Elvis of course) reading and watching all the “chick flicks” – she used to send Dad to Target every Tuesday to pick up the latest DVD releases. However, Mom enjoyed first and foremost her family. Of course she was the love of our Dad’s life and he was the love of hers but Mom loved nothing more than her ‘babies’. While Mom and Dad did have many struggles in their 69 years of marriage, they knew how to work through each difficulty, always ending up loving each other even more. Their marriage was a true testament and example to their children and grandchildren.

A visitation for family and friends was held Friday, November 11, 2022 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home, 14501 North Interstate 35, Pflugerville, Texas. Margie’s funeral service followed at 2:30 p.m. in the funeral home chapel and she will then be laid to rest at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery.

Click for full Obituary at: [DignityMemorial.com](https://www.dignitymemorial.com)

Our Prayers go out to the friends and family of Margie. May God comfort you in this difficult time.



Wesley School Annual
Christmas Program
Dec. 9th 6:00pm
Sanctuary



Staff
Love
Gift

Friends, as each of you know, we are truly blessed to have such a hard-working and loyal group of people on our church staff helping us fulfill our mission of ministry here in northeast Austin! As we approach the end of the year and the Christmas season, we want to again return a small token of appreciation to these precious ones by collecting gifts from members and friends and then present our love gift to each staff member. All money collected will be evenly divided among our staff of five. If you wish to participate, please mail your check made out to the church **designating it “Staff Love Gift”** or put your check or cash gift in the offering in **an envelope marked “Staff Love Gift”**. Please get your gift to the church by December 15, in order for us to present it by Christmas. Thank you for your participation in letting our staff know how much we appreciate what they do for our church all year long.

Kendall Smith SPRC Chairperson



2022 Contributions

If you wish for any contributions to Memorial UMC to "count" for tax year 2022, they must be in to our office by December 31. If the office is not open, they may be placed in the mail slot under the portico at the office entrance. Mail and messages will be collected daily during the last week of the year. Thank you!

*****Please return your 2023 Estimate of Giving card at your earliest opportunity if you have not already done so.**

Cut off bottom of next page & return.

Women of Windsor Park Craft Yard Extravaganza on the Front Lawn Dec. 17th 9am-4pm



December Schedule



Sunday December 11 – UMYF 6 pm
(Sunday School 9:45 am)

Wednesday December 21
CHRISTMAS BREAK LOCK-IN!

Details coming soon!

Two Too Many” A Picture Give Away



While waiting for church to start, take some time to browse through the pictures in the Narthex. We have doubles of so many pictures and want to share with everyone. Please take the picture of your family and friends who have moved away. Please Share.

United Women in Faith

Pancake Breakfast

2nd Sunday of each month in the Gym Kitchen/FHL
8:30am Dec. 11th

UWF meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month
10:30am in Pearce **Dec. 14**

Bread Church

Special Day!!! See Page 7 for details.



Memorial United Methodist Church

6100 BERKMAN DRIVE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723

PHONE (512) 452-5796

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Web Page: www.memorialumcaustin.com

Memorial UMC Congregational Update

Like me, 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. In spite of 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 149 years, I am sure there were many before we showed up on the scene. We are facing another challenge today. Our expenses have outpaced our giving for several years, but reserves given by those who came before us have sustained us while we made attempts to make changes needed to balance our expenses to our income. After two to three more challenging years and large capital expenses like our recent roof replacement, our reserves are very low. Our Church Council met in November to prayerfully discuss how we can adapt to this new challenge. Here is what we ask that each of you do:

Please pray for all of our church leaders as we work to discern how to adapt to these new challenges.

In order to see more clearly what we need to do to continue in ministry throughout 2023, we ask each person or each household to complete the pledge card (see below). Sunday Nov. 20th we had our Thanksgiving luncheon after church and we gathered together to give thanks for all the great things God has done, especially this year.

If you have questions, you are welcome to come to Church Council, speak to Pastor Cynthia or myself or any of the other current leaders. Thank you! Kendall Smith

Cut Here-----

 Yes! I/We will support Memorial United Methodist Church in 2023.

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)

Do you remember?

Christmas Pageants and Celebrations



Banner Making: New advent banners designed by Edna Maree Moore, created by Katherine Kinnell. Katherine has made banners for other churches, is a former Memorial member and assisted in organizing Wesley Kindergarten.



Banners were recently refurbished by the ladies of the church.



By Gloria McPhail

Cut Here-----

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:



The Pastor's Corner

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

“Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail th’ incarnate Deity; pleased with us in flesh to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel” (“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” by Charles Wesley)

Incarnation is one of my favorite parts of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle. There are so many people whose shoes I have longed to walk in, even for a little bit, to see and experience life from their perspective. The thought that God did that for all of us is just a little bit overwhelming.

There have been many men (and a few women) who have claimed that they were gods—or proclaimed themselves to be gods—or just *acted* like they were gods. But for God to take on vulnerable flesh—not protected flesh, not wealthy flesh, not high-born flesh—reminds me that God knows what it means to live and act within a certain body and at a certain time. And the thought that God came to be among other vulnerable people fills me with great joy because it means, to me, that God had not forgotten those who were far from power and authority and wealth (which, conveniently, most of the people who considered themselves gods also claimed).

Just when I think I’m not sure what God is doing anymore, I see God acting through the Body of Christ, through faithful followers, *and* through people who just want to do good, whether they know Jesus or not. I look around and I see God acting all over the place!

What does it mean for God to “take on flesh” in our neighborhood? Maybe it already looks like playing with kids in the Wesley Rec program or people delivering Meals on Wheels. Maybe it looks like people binding one another’s wounds, literally and figuratively.

Seeing what God is already doing means pondering the question, “What are vulnerable people doing among the also-vulnerable in this time and place?” When we look at what is happening around us with those eyes, suddenly we do see Jesus in the midst of a whole lot of places that we had not imagined Jesus might be. We might even claim our own vulnerabilities in order to be a part of what God is doing.

Going through this season every year can be a “reset” for our own spirits and our own plans as we try to follow Jesus. God is still putting on flesh and acting in this world—may we see, hear and join in!

Cynthia Kepler Janner

SPECIAL BREAD CHURCH!

Sunday, December 18 at 3:00-5:00pm

Shape and paint an edible bread sculpture to take and bake!

Reservations required—to make a reservation, simply call the church office and tell us how many people are in your party! We will be staggering start times, so you can also tell us if you’d like to be in the 3:00pm, 3:30pm, 4:00pm or 4:30pm start time.

Dough will be pre-made (though if you’d like to help make dough after church, see Pastor Cynthia!). Bring your own cookie sheet or baking sheet or ask about an option to bake at the church.





December 2022 Christmas Decor Order Form

Cut off date for purchasing is Friday December 12th for poinsettias, the 16th for luminaries. Sign up now! Mail to church, drop through office door or

Email form to: secretary@memorialumcaustin.com

We will be purchasing up to 25 poinsettias and refreshing our luminaries. Poinsettias will be \$11 each this year, keeping our luminaries looking good will be \$4/luminary (new waterproof bags). For either, you may choose to donate or take home with you.

| From Whom | How Many (P or L) | In Honor of or In Memory of | Donate | I'll Take |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Please Circle Honor or Memory to designate your text.

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