

# 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 Worship

Find all our Newsletters on our

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

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

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# December 2020



## Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2020

Dec 6 -“Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way”

Dec 13 -“Those Who Dream...Sow Joy”

Dec 20 -“ Those Who Dream...Are Not Alone”

Christmas Eve—“We Are...Those Who Dream”

Dec 27 -“Those Who Dream...Will Not Keep Silent”

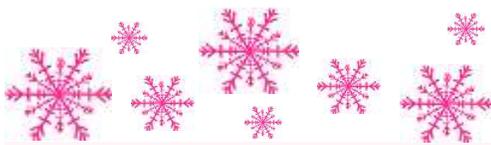
Jan 3 -“Those Who Dream...Persevere”

## Special Services in December

As of the end of November, cases and hospitalizations in Austin are rising dramatically. Though we hope to still have an outdoor communion service at the first of the month in December, there may need to be changes even to what we have been doing since many folks in our congregation fall into high risk categories. Please keep an eye on our website as well as our facebook page and email communications for the most up-to-date information on our plans.

Many have also asked about Christmas Eve, which poses many of the same questions about safety as communion services. We are trying to think creatively about how to offer a service which celebrates this joyous occasion at the church while still taking into account safest and best practices. One adaptation, especially in the likelihood that we will be having some kind of drive-in service, is that we are giving luminaries as memory and honor gifts this year (see back page).

Be on the lookout for some goodies to either pick up or that will be coming in the mail to hopefully bring some of the Advent and Christmas season home and encourage us to stay connected, even while we are physically distanced!



## News From Pews

By Billie  
Nixon  
Membership  
Coordinator



Clark, Janet Marie

August 21, 1921- October 15, 2020 Janet was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the town of Tuolumne California in the beautiful Sierra Nevadas.

From the time she was born she was a shooting star. She attended Watsonville High and with two of her very best friends from Watsonville. Janet attended the Providence School of Nursing Oakland graduating in 1942.

While attending Nursing school she met the love of her life John Clark. One look was all it took. Their love story will always be a favorite to all those who knew them. John (Jack) was an officer in the air force and they had many adventures together. They moved to Hawaii, France, Stillwater Oklahoma and finally settled in Austin Texas. They had three amazing children along the way.

Janet and Jack could, often, be caught dancing in the living room. I don't think they ever went a day without dancing together. Janet Clark was a loving nurturing mother and cherished grandmother and a Red Cross volunteer. She made friends with everyone she ever met. There is no end to the lives she has touched on this planet.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents Marie Ramsey and Irl Rodifer, husband, John Max Clark Sr. sister, Joy Scott, and both of her beloved sons, James Micheal Clark and John Max Clark Jr. as well as her grandson, Dwain Mason and nephew Vincent Mazzini. Jack and Janet have the entire universe as their dance floor now.



Katherine Kelley passed away at home, surrounded by family, on November 6, 2020 in Austin, Texas, at the age of 92.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie "Bart" Kelley; twin Daughters, Evajo Myers and Anabel Burnes; mother and father, Clarence and Eva Low; sister and brother-in-law, Truman and Francis Parr; sister and brother-in-law, Bill and Margie Evans; brother, David Low; and nephew, Walter David Low.

Katherine is survived by her son, Bart Kelley Jr. and wife Cynthia of Austin, Texas; son-in-law, Jerry Myers of Hutto, Texas; son-in-law, Ronal Burnes of Kingsland, Texas; brother, Winston Low and wife Louise of Victoria, Texas; and sister-in-law, Joy Low of Gonzales, Texas; and numerous loving family members on the Kelley side of Gonzales, Texas.

She was the amazing grandmother to 8 grandchildren, Quentin Weston, Tammy Manning, Jason Weston, Katie Johnson, Amanda Ford, Rhonda Colombo, Rebecca Kelley, Anne Johnson; and 29 great grandchildren; and 9 great-great grandchildren.

A Visitation was held at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, at 6100 North Lamar Boulevard Austin, Texas 78752 on Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 PM. A Graveside Service was held on Friday, November 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM at the Pavilion at Ebenezer Cemetery.



May God  
bless each  
family with  
love and  
good  
memories.



## December Birthdays

- 2nd Sandra Bissett  
Norma Hauser
- 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

Vote at Memorial  
Run Off Election



December 15th  
7am-7pm  
in the Gym



# The Pastor's Corner

*“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream...” (Psalm 126:1)*

I heard someone this week describe their current spiritual state as wavering constantly between despair and hope. I confess that mine is often more attuned to the news cycle than I wish it to be, especially as concerns what has kept us all apart for nearly nine months. In the same week that we hear that there are not one but the possibilities of two vaccines within the next year, I feel elation (though tempered by the facts that getting everything rolled out to everyone is going to be a monumental task). When I see that we have rolled back to Stage 4 and cases are rising in the same precipitous way we saw at the beginning of summer, the despair is tempered by a trust that we may have learned something from the last wave.

The Christian liturgical year has one very long season after the day of Pentecost. We used to divide the summer and fall into separate seasons of Pentecost and Kingdomtide, but now the official calendars call for something called “Ordinary Time”.

That is not to say that the time is standard or usual. In this case, the word “ordinary” specifically refers to “ordinals”, which are the technical name for “1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, etc”—numbers that tell you where they are in line. In other words, it’s like counting something in a line. In this case, we count the Sundays after Pentecost until we get to Advent.

I have come to think of it a little like counting sheep, which I have sometimes had to do to get to sleep lately. It marks time while hoping that the brain can move into a place where dreams may come. And now in Advent, we get to think about the promise and what is just over the horizon—we get to dream.

This is one reason I am so glad to start Advent just a little bit early—it isn’t to rush us past Thanksgiving or to skip immediately into Christmas. It really is to give us an opportunity to dream of the ways in which Christ coming into this world brings hope and peace.

The clergy team that worked on the materials (at least the ones starting on November 29) for our Advent theme commented on why it was so important to them to think about dreaming this year:

“As we begin a new church year, this Advent will mark the end of an extremely tumultuous calendar year. COVID-19, our current civil rights revolution, the US presidential elections—these events, among many others, are disrupting and reorienting our lives. In the midst of great loss and hardship, new possibilities and realities are being revealed to us. Often, our dreams are wildly disorienting—they don’t always make sense. They throw us off kilter. Sometimes they are deeply disturbing, and sometimes they help us uncover our deep knowing. Similarly, Advent is a season of trusting that God’s deep wisdom will guide us from disorientation (the mini apocalypse) toward wonder, awe, and praise (Mary’s Magnificat). As we journey together this season, I pray that we will not only dream of a better world, but bring it forth through our choices and actions, our rituals and practices.” —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

I pray that even though we are having to adapt many of the rituals and practices of the church in this time, that we will still find ways to dream together, whether it is through things that we all do in our homes but share our experience of with others or whether it is purchasing luminaries to light the way to a place where people can experience the Christmas story in a new way or for the first time.

One of the other writers leaves us with several questions, which I hope you’ll ponder through the month:

“Sometimes our dreams are small because to dream big feels frivolous. Sometimes our dreams are small because to dream big might threaten our reality. Sometimes our dreams are big because our lives depend on it. This Advent, how can we harness the power of dreaming? What can we learn from dreamers who came before us? How can we narrow the space between reality and God’s dream—a dream imaged in the flesh of the Christ child?” — Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

May God’s peace and joy be with you...

# December Newsletter

## December 2020 Christmas Luminary Order Form - \$5 each

Cut off date for purchasing is Friday December 18th.



**Sign up now!** Mail to church, drop through office door or  
Email form to: [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)



**Luminaries will be placed in chancel on Dec. 20th and along  
the sidewalk for Christmas Eve Drive Up Service**

From Whom	How Many	In Honor of or In Memory of	Donate	I'll Take

Please Circle Honor or Memory to designate your text.

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