

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



*Merry
Christmas
Y'all*

In this issue:

Sympathy, Birthdays, & Events.....	2
Honoring & 2021 End of Year.....	3
Partner Updates.....	4
Pastor's Corner.....	5
Luminary Order Form.....	6

December 2021



November 28:
"Homesick"

December 5:
"Laying the
Foundation"

CLOSE to
HOME

December 12:
"A Home for All"

December 19: "Safe at Home"

Christmas Eve: "Invited Home"

December
5th
Sunday
Service



December
5th 4pm
On Zoom





News From pews

By **Billie Nixon**



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



Rebecca Lynne Lowe passed from this life early in the morning on Oct. 18 at Christopher House in Austin, Tex.

Despite navigating advanced cancer over the past four years, she remained hopeful and luminous to the end.

Rebecca had long and treasured ties to New Mexico. Her husband Sam was a VISTA Volunteer in the 1970s, and the family took regular camping trips to the NM mountains while their children were growing up. Her daughter Cara applied to Armand Hammer United World College in the 90s; her son Jesse attended St. John's College in Santa Fe in the 2000s. These connections led to an enthusiastic sharing of delights from the Land of Enchantment over the years, and Rebecca became a fierce believer in Green Chile Therapy. Her last great adventure was fixing up an old adobe casita in West Las Vegas with friends and family.



Bread Church
December
16th

7pm Gym Kitchen



Fall Schedule

12/5/21 6-8pm

Youth Room & Gym

12/17/21 Lock In 7pm-7am Gym



Celebrating Billie Nixon on December 12

Billie Nixon has faithfully served Memorial UMC for 55 years on staff as the membership secretary, helping to coordinate dinners and social gatherings as well as tending to member needs and making sure people in the congregation feel loved and included. By our count, she has served with 10 different senior pastors and has sent out thousands of cards and notes as well as caring for and welcoming people to Memorial.



What an achievement and what a gift to our worshiping community! And it's not just our community, but so many all over Austin and beyond who know that Billie is an absolutely integral part of Memorial UMC.

On Sunday, December 12, as we celebrate the church's 148th anniversary, we will also celebrate Billie Nixon, as she transitions to a volunteer role at the church. While she will still have her office and be interacting with the members of the congregations in ways that she loves and is outstandingly good at, we will now all have a chance to pitch in and take on some of the work that she has taught us how to do so well—the work of hospitality and loving care!

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 four. 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



We are excited to announce the addition of Matt Ortiz as our new Youth Intern!

Matt is a Sustainable Studies junior at the University of Texas and is involved in leadership at The Texas Wesley, our Methodist student ministry at UT. He also

serves on the board of UMARMY and has been involved in their mission trips for many years. Matt is from Del Rio where he was a member of First UMC there and participated in their youth activities throughout middle school and high school. **Welcome to Memorial!!**



2021 Contributions

If you wish for any contributions to Memorial UMC to "count" for tax year

2021, 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!



Senior Access invites you to our 27th annual Mistletoe Magic concert.

Kick off your holiday season with local church and community choirs. This concert directly benefits the senior clients we serve. We are grateful we get to serve such a wonderful population and want to continue growing so that we can help even more. We look forward to being together for this event.



There are so many things I can talk about with you in this month's article – hundreds of Fall CROP Hunger Walks; the 2022 Austin CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, March 6, 2022; thousands of CWS Blankets and Kits distributed to disaster victims; providing welcome to thousands of Afghan refugees...



CWS
Church World Service

But the main thing this month is to announce my retirement from CWS, effective 12/31/21. The simplest way to explain my decision to retire is to say: it is time. There are several reasons; mixed emotions; and great anticipation.

Here's the thing, though: I have no plans to end my involvement with Church World Service. I look forward to serving as a volunteer and, possibly, serving on a contract with the organization. I believe in the CWS mission: transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. As CWS celebrates 75 years of mission, I look forward to working with CWS in the future.

In the meantime, I am in conversation with your pastor about transitions in our office space, and, in particular, how Memorial might continue to support the work of our fantastic Austin CROP Hunger Walk and its volunteers.

Grace and Peace,
Kevin Murphy



Cesar Benevides, Vice President of WPNA An Austin resident for most of

his life, Cesar Benavides has lived in Windsor Park since 2006. Cesar has worked for 20 years for Austin Energy and City for Austin primarily in institutional finance and accounting. Patience and persistence have been valuable qualities as Cesar has been instrumental in the acquisition and development of Pomerleau Pocket Park. Cesar's goals for WPNA and his first term include: keeping WP advocacy energies focused on the proposed development of Windsor Village; maintaining a proactive stance on transportation and mobility issues facing a rapidly changing city; advocating for WPNA membership growth to support our advocacy and engage WP residents. See [Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. November Newsletter](#) for the full article.



The Pastor's Corner

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25:9

We only thought waiting was hard. It has been two whole years since we have sung carols together in the sanctuary. It has been two whole years since we lit candles and blessed the dark stillness of the night for it was into the stillness that Christ was born. It has been two whole years of wondering When? and Why not now?

It was about a year ago that I found the book "Waiting" by Mo Willems. You may recognize his name either from reading children's books or from the many times I have used his books in worship, especially during our time with kids. He is absolutely one of my favorite kids books author/illustrators, and his characters of Elephant and Piggie are best of friends and keep showing us both the delightful side of life and what it means to experience it in the context of community and friendship.

If you'd like to see and hear the book read (and you're reading this on the internet), you can click this link to see a youtube video that is really well done of the book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGGsB-jBTlo>

For those without an access link to the story, it shows what a difficult time Elephant has waiting. Piggie comes in to tell Elephant that she has a surprise for him. When he says he can't wait, she says he will have to. He groans and gets really impatient, even threatening to leave at one point. He keeps on trying to cajole her into revealing the surprise until finally he begins to panic that the surprise may have already come and gone—it's getting late and he mentions that it's almost to the point where they won't even be able to see one another.

After several ranting pages, Elephant finally says that he can't believe they wasted a whole day. And then he says, "And for what?" Actually, he kinda yells it.

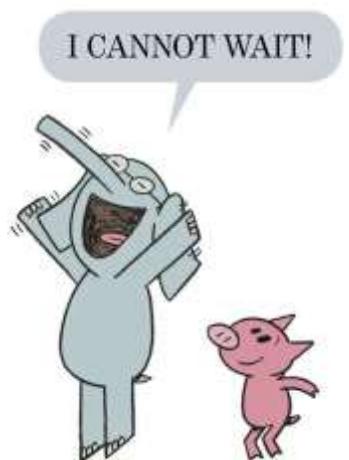
But Piggie responds by pointing up and saying, "For that." Revealed on the next page is a whole field of stars—the kind that you can only get by going out into the country where light pollution is not as bad as it is in the city. Elephant is in awe. So are we.

We are in a waiting season. It's active, alert, getting-ready-for waiting—not the kind of complaint-centered waiting that Elephant practices. But we join with people from every age and time—from the very beginnings of God's relationship with people—to wait for God to come in true glory. We pray that we might catch a glimpse of it until such time as we can see it in full.

My prayer this season is that we don't miss it. That we aren't so busy or so excited to get to do some of the things that we had to postpone or cancel last year that we don't look for what is truly magnificent all around us. Miracles both popping up from out of nowhere and, as one of my friends puts it, "slow miracles" that come about through patient waiting and working.

What is God waiting for in you this season? I also imagine God seeing us as beautiful starfields, displaying God's creativity, worth God's waiting.

I hope that you find someone this season to share your waiting with, whether a friend or family member or another person in the congregation. We don't wait alone, and we do not wait without hope—and hope can be easier to hold on to when there's another person by our sides. Be blessed, and we'll see you in worship.



Lyntha Kepler-Harrer

December 2021 Christmas Decor Order Form

Cut off date for purchasing is Friday December 11th for poinsettias, the 18th 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 \$12 each this year, keeping our luminaries looking good will be \$4/luminary (sand, new candles, etc). 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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Memorial United Methodist Church
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 Austin, Texas 78723
 Phone: 512-452-5796
 Fax: 512-450-0323

