

# The Newsletter

## December 2014

### 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.**

Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323

Find us on Facebook at  
Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

Web site:

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

Email:

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

### *Sunday Schedule*

Sunday School 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

### In This Issue

Worship Notes.....	2
News from the Pews.....	3
Women's Ministries .....	3
Calendar.....	4-5
Programs.....	6
Pastor's Corner.....	7

## December Events

### *December 1*

Church Conference at 7:00 PM

### *December 2*

UMW Gift Bags for  
Home Bound at 9:30 AM

### *December 7*

Pancake Breakfast and Toy Collection  
for Brown Santa at 8:45 AM

Hanging of the Greenery 10:30 AM

Snack Lunch and Cookie Decorating  
11:45 AM

### *December 12*

Wesley School Christmas Program  
6:00 PM

### *December 14*

Choir Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM  
Snack Lunch and Gingerbread House  
Making 11:45 AM

### *December 18*

“Tis the Season” Concert with  
Icy Monroe and Artina McCain

### *December 24*

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM



# Worship Notes

## Advent 2014 - "All I Want for Christmas—Dealing with the Deepest Desires of Our Hearts".

Beginning November 30, we will celebrate Advent, the preparation for the coming of Christ. Our theme this year is "All I Want for Christmas—Dealing with the Deepest Desires of Our Hearts".

### Special Worship services for Advent and Christmas

December 7 *Hanging of the Greenery*

We'll be doing this special presentation during our morning worship. Come and find out the meaning behind all of our decorations.

December 15 *Choir Cantata*

"Morning Star", by Joseph M. Martin.

... a work that celebrates the birth of Jesus – the Light of the world, the bright and morning star.

December 24 at 7:00pm - *Christmas Candlelight*

Our special night when we celebrate Christ's birth with traditional lessons and carols and communion.

### December Communion Offering Supports Austin Missions and Student Ministries

In addition to individual events the Austin area churches help run the Free Store, the Justice For Our Neighbors clinic and a clinic/school in Diecke, Guinea. Our higher education student ministries continue to uphold the next generation and offer them Christ.



### Note from your Financial Secretary End of Year Giving

End of year gifts for MUMC must be postmarked or delivered by December 31, 2014, to be credited to this year's giving. For more info, please call Kerry at 512-452-5796.



### CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFT FOR OUR CHURCH STAFF

It's that time of year when we get the opportunity to show appreciation to our wonderful church staff. This year we have decided to send this request through our newsletter. As each of you know, we are truly blessed to have such a hard-working and loyal group of people making sure that our church follows its mission. As in the past, we will collect 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 seven.

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 31, in order for us to present it at the first Staff meeting in January.

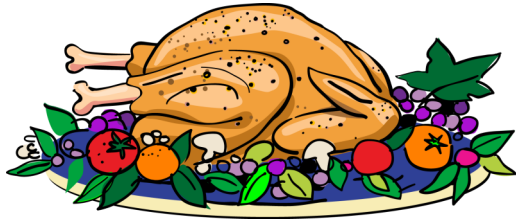
Thank you for your participation in letting our staff know how much we appreciate what they do for our church all year long.

Wanda Stout Adams  
SPRC Chairperson



## *News from the Pews*

*Billie Nixon, Membership Coordinator*



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Consecration Celebration and Thanksgiving Dinner a success. The gym was filled with lovely decorations, delicious food, and the warmth of family and friends.



## **United Methodist** **Women**

**Special Project December 2nd  
at 9:30 AM**

**Putting together bags for the  
Home-Bound**

**Bring any kind of treat or small gift.  
Anyone can participate.**

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Come join your church family  
for a pancake breakfast on  
Sunday, December 7, 2014 at  
8:45 AM in the gym and bring  
a new toy for Brown Santa.**



## **Shop Online and Give to Memorial UMC!** **[www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org)**

Helping out the church is as easy as going online! Before you go to your favorite online stores, go to [www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org). Get registered with your email and a password and then search for Memorial Austin. Select our church and then find your favorite stores. Shopping through the market portal means your stores will donate anywhere from .5-11% of your purchase directly to Memorial UMC. There are over 700 different options—everything from books and gifts to hotels and travel. There are no surcharges to you—and Memorial benefits!

## **YOUTH NEWS**

**UMYF-United Methodist Youth Fellowship**

Blazer Tag Lock IN on Friday December 19, 2014 from 10pm to 6am. We will be meeting at Faith UMC for Worship at 10 pm and then we will go to Blazer Tag at 12 am. We will be collecting hygiene items for the FreeStore at Faith UMC on the day of the Lock in. See page 10 for a list of items.

The Youth are already looking ahead to Midwinter. They plan to attend the first two weekends, January 9-11 Sr. High and College and January 23-25 Missions Weekend.

Call, email or text Kendall for questions! If you don't have his information contact the church office, [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com) or 512-452-5796.



### ***Wesley School Christmas Program***

The Wesley kids are already hard at work learning the songs for their program. Come out and celebrate the work that this church sponsors daily!

Friday, December 13 at 6:00 pm



# December Birthdays

2nd Laura Ruth Kozelsky  
Sandra Bissett  
Ron Frederick  
Norma Hauser  
Charlyne Schmidt  
3rd Caitlyn Dennig  
5th Drianna Gonzales  
Sharon Owens  
6th Ann Brady  
7th Don Mohler  
Paula Garner  
Harry Pomerleau  
12th Evelyn Capps  
13th Michael Moore  
15th Susan Froebel  
17th Michael Shelton, Jr.  
19th Kel Pomerleau Bills  
22nd Lilia Gail Mohler  
James Rhoades  
26th Mark Corry  
Laurie Dennig  
27th Wanda Anderson  
Thomas Bissett  
28th George Berglund



# December Calendar

## Monday, December 1

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel  
7:00 pm - Church Conference  
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

## Tuesday, December 2

9:30 am - Staff meeting  
9:30 am - UMW Gift Bag Project

## Wednesday, December 3

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel –Sanctuary  
6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 4

## Friday, December 5

11:00 am - Bible Study –Moore

## Saturday, December 6

## Sunday, December 7

8:45 am - Pancake Breakfast –Gym  
9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
11:45 am - Snack Lunch and Cookie Decorating  
5:00 pm - UMYF– Gym

## Monday, December 8

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel  
7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

## Tuesday, December 9

9:30 am - Staff meeting  
9:30 am - UMW Knitting - Pearce  
6:30 pm - Wesley Board Meeting -Pearce

## Wednesday, December 10

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary  
6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

# CALENDAR

## CONTINUED

### Thursday, December 11

7:00 pm - Reading and Library Circle- Library

7:00 pm - Austin Ukulele Society -FHL/Gym

### Friday, December 12

6:00 pm - Wesley School Christmas Program- Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 14—Cantata

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

11:30 am - Trustees -Pearce

10:30 am - Worship Service

12:00 pm - Snack Lunch and Gingerbread Houses

5:00 pm - UMYF

### Monday, December 15

#### Deadline for Newsletter Submissions

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

### Tuesday, December 16

7:00 am - Runoff Elections

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting - Pearce

### Wednesday, December 17

10:00 am - Wesley School Chapel -Sanctuary

6:00 pm - Handbell Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 18

7:00 pm - Lamplighters, UMW Circle -Pearce

7:30 pm - "Tis the Season" Concert with Icy Monroe and  
Artina McCain

### Friday, December 19

11:00 am - Bible Study -Moore

### Sunday, December 21

9:15 am -Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am -Worship Service

### Monday, December 22

6:15 am - Morning Prayer -Chapel

7:30 pm - Boy Scouts -Gym

### Tuesday, December 23

9:30 am - Staff meeting

9:30 am - UMW Knitting -Pearce

### Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve

Office Closes at Noon

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service

### Thursday, December 25- Christmas Day

Office Closed

### Friday, December 26

Office Closed

### Sunday, December 28- Bell Ringing Sunday- Bring a Bell to Ring

9:15 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship Service

### Monday, December 29

Office closes at Noon

### Tuesday, December 30

Office closes at Noon

### Wednesday, December 31

Office closes at Noon

### Thursday, January 1

Office Closed

### Friday, January 2

Office Closed



### 2015 Calendar for Altar Flowers Posted

Altar flowers may be given in memory or honor of loved ones or for special mission projects .  
*Fill out a form designating your wish* and leave at the office or drop it off in the offering plate on Sunday. A new sign up sheet for Sundays through the June 28, 2015 has been posted in the hallway of the administration wing.  
Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today.





**Wednesdays**

**Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 PM**

**Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM**

### **Get-Ready-for-Christmas Activities**

November 30 - *Ornament and Decoration Making Party*, make ornaments to keep and ornaments to give, build both keepsakes and memories - all supplies provided by MUMC

December 7 - *Sugar Cookie Decorating Party* - come ready to paint with icing and all sorts of goodies. We'll provide the cookies and the decorations, you provide the fun!

December 14 - *Gingerbread Houses!* - we will have gingerbread all set up for you to come and make a house with your family (one house per household). Because we need time to prepare, ***Reservations are strongly suggested*** for this event.

***Call or email the church office at 512-452-5796 or [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)***

no later than Friday, December 12 at noon. We'll have goodies for decorating, but feel free to bring anything special you want to put on there.



*Caroling*: Every year, we get together to go singing to several of our shut-ins, then come back to the church for beverages and food.

Date and Time: TBA

FROM YOUR STAFF

Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer

Holly Huff

Kerry Mc Farland

Laurie Strawbridge

Billie Nixon

Daniel Swayze

Dr. Phillip D. Hill



*Merry Christmas*

### **Church Conference December 1st**

Our annual administrative meeting with the District Superintendent will be Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. This meeting is open to all church members.



*Tis the Season*

**Free!**

Holiday Concert  
Presented by  
Icy Monroe and  
Artina McCain

**December 18th at 7:30 PM**

**in the Sanctuary**

**(A Love Offering Will Be Taken)**

*“There is a yearning  
in hearts weight down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.  
There is a yearning  
in hearts that in the darkness hide  
and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.  
There is a yearning,  
a yearning for the Promised One, the Firstborn of Creation.  
There is a yearning  
for the Lord who visited His own,  
and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.*

*There is a yearning  
that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.  
There is a yearning  
when all our sorrows are erased  
and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.”*

Craig Courtney, “The Yearning”

What do you want for Christmas? What do you want for Christmas that doesn't come from a store? As I was contemplating the scriptures for this Advent, I was filled with the kind of yearning and longing of which the text above speaks.

A yearning for loved ones gone. A yearning for there to be peace and justice. A yearning for comfort. A yearning for the world to be set right. A yearning for life to break forth around me and within me. A deep longing that cannot be set right unless it is set right by the one who will bring everything and everyone to wholeness.



This year in our Advent worship, I'm going to be exploring what this yearning might mean for us...and for God...and for the season that brings us to field and manger, to witness with shepherds and animals and watch all of Creation take it's first new breaths once again, learning to breathe alongside the Child, who is born for all of us. May the deepest yearnings of your heart not go unnoticed or un-prayed for this year. And may God be the God all of them.

*Synthia Kepler-Harrer*

## Order Your Poinsettias!

\$10.00 each

Poinsettias will be placed in the Chancel, Sunday, December 21. Deadline for purchasing poinsettias is Monday, December 15. Sign-up early. Any questions, please call the church office at 512-452-5796 or email [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com). (Poinsettia orders must be paid for by December 15, 2014 to be in the bulletin.)

How Many	From:	In Honor or Memory of: (Indicate which)	Keep or Donate
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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