

# 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](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Find us on Facebook at

Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

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# FEBRUARY 2022

## Illuminated



February 6—Jesus Calls the Disciples  
“Bounce Lighting”

February 13—The Sermon on the Plain I  
“Motivated Lighting”

February 20—The Sermon on the Plain II

“Practical Lighting”

February 27—The Transfiguration

“High Key Lighting”



## Webinar on Mental Health

*The signs of someone struggling with mental health are often subtle, leaving many conditions undetected and therefore undiagnosed and untreated. It's important to not only recognize these signs in ourselves but in our family, friends and colleagues so that we can give them the support they need when they need it.*

All Memorial UMC congregants are invited to a free online webinar in two parts (1 hour for each part). Taught by a First Aid for Mental Health trainer who is also a professional hostage and crisis negotiator, this webinar will offer insight into how to identify and understand better both the mental health needs of those around you as well as yourself.

This webinar is FREE, and both parts are necessary.

Part 1: March 10 (1-hour sessions held at 10am, 2pm, and 7pm)

Part 2: March 24 (1-hour sessions held at 10am, 2pm, and 7pm)

Pastor Cynthia will be watching the 2pm session in the parlor both days on the big screen.

### For more information and to sign up:

<https://a18814.actonsoftware.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/18814/p/p-0005/t/page/fm/0>



## News From pews



### A Big



Cynthia – Thank you for your generous time and creativity in the planning of my 55-year retirement from my service as membership coordinator for Memorial UMC.

My gratitude goes to the SPR Committee and anyone else involved in planning the reception and celebration activities. And the flowers that you gave me were so gorgeous. They are still fresh and beautiful. It reminds me of my younger years when I used to judge in flower competitions, but none of the arrangements were this pretty!

Also, thank you for my card which recognized my fifty-five years of service along with special notes from all of the congregation. Thank you for compiling the photo history to build on these past years when I had the privilege of working at Memorial UMC.

Last but not least, I have never felt so honored as I did when you began to speak about me on the video. I felt that it was all given with love and it filled me to the bottom of my heart. I will always remember the love that was expressed through your many gifts.

But I do have to ask, who organized this? How on earth did you do it without me hearing about it? I thought I was a better detective than that! It is said that we receive what we give, but Sunday I felt like I received 10 times more than I have ever given. I am honored and grateful to have so many friends and loved ones, and a wonderful church that honored me so royally!

Thank you again. With love, Billie Nixon

### Robert C. “Bob” Hauser

passed peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on December 19, 2021 in Pflugerville, Texas. Bob was born on November 24, 1934 in Denison, Texas. His parents were Milton Gilmore Hauser and Lelia Baker Hauser. The 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 children, Bob was the last surviving of his siblings: Ellenor Fulton, Janet Luibel, Doris Hussey, Milton G. “Sonny” Hauser and Mary “Vann” McCrary.

As a little boy, Bob’s life-long love for the outdoors began. Hunting, fishing, camping, woodworking, and sports became his life. At age 11, he had his first job at Ashburn’s Ice Cream making 5 cents an hour.

Bob graduated from Denison High School and enlisted immediately in the US Navy at the age of 17. While serving in the Korean Conflict from 1952-1955, Bob was awarded several awards. He was honorably discharged at the age of 21.

After his Naval service, he married the love of his life Norma Ann Byrd on March 3, 1956. Bob and Norma enjoyed their time together “before kids” traveling, camping, water skiing, sports, LIFE.

In 1963, Bob & Norma were blessed with their 1<sup>st</sup> child, Reggie. Dad was hired by the City of Denison code enforcement which led to his career with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. After the birth of their 2<sup>nd</sup> child Robin Ann, they moved briefly to Possum Kingdom State Park, then to San Angelo. In 1971, TPWD transferred dad to Headquarters in Austin where they settled to raise their family. Upon the move, they were blessed with their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Ruth Ellen.

Throughout raising their children, the family were members of Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin. Many years of dedicated volunteer work and maintenance with Delwood Northeast Optimist Club. Bob retired from TPWD at the age of 75 where he was Chief of Park Operations. One of his proudest projects was the Wildlife Expo. After a few weeks of “retirement”, Bob traveled all over Texas to help FEMA with true dedication and commitment until retiring to become a full-time grandpa.

Dad’s only Christmas wish was to be in Heaven with Norma.

Services were directed by Beck Funeral Home, Pflugerville Texas. Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 1:00 pm, Pflugerville Community Church. In lieu of flowers, donations made be made to Hospice Austin in Bob’s honor.

For Full Obituary Click Link on Name



Philip N. Lowe died on January 5, 2022. He was 98 years old, with a golden heart and a wealth of stories.

He grew up in Mart, Texas, on a dairy farm in a large, hard-working family. He remembered when electricity came to the farm in the late 1920s. He recalled having mixed feelings about childhood birthdays, because "every year they gave you another cow to milk!" A former Mart football player with his brother Robert, Philip was a lifelong Panther fan. World War II broke out a short time after he began higher education at Texas A&M, and he entered pilot training. He married his high school sweetheart, Audrey, and they moved 13 times during the war.

After the war, they raised two children, Mike and Rebecca, in the house on Tilden Street. The Lowes retired to Kingsland, where they hosted many family gatherings in the house on Lake LBJ that Philip designed and finished out. Though Audrey and Philip had some wonderful travel adventures after they retired. She soon had health problems that required him to become her care partner, which he did for more than twenty years.

Philip took great pleasure in family connections and delighted in hearing about his grandchildren's big adventures and daily work. He also reveled in genealogy, tracing family roots to Irish immigrants in the 1630s.

When he was almost ninety, Philip moved to the Austin area, where he enjoyed the company of his daughter Rebecca. He later encouraged and loved her along a five-year cancer journey. To the end of his life, he remained sweet, witty, generous, and insightful.

Philip was a lifelong Methodist and most recently attended Memorial Methodist Church in Austin. A faithful Christian and a believer in eternal life, he is now reunited with his parents, brothers and sisters, Rebecca, and his beloved Audrey.

A small graveside service was held with immediate family. Meanwhile, in lieu of flowers, friends may donate to Lions International in Philip's memory.

## Financial Moves



As of this newsletter publication, we have had a slight hiccup in our move to migrate our online giving from our current platform (still functioning) to Breeze, our integrated church software. While we do not anticipate that you will see a huge difference in the online giving experience, we wanted to have information to you about the change.

We will publish information on the website as well as in an email and our March newsletter. If you are currently giving automatically each month, you will receive special instructions as to how to stop your gift on our current platform and begin it in Breeze.

Thank you for your patience! We know that this will save us time and money, so we are eager to make the switch. We also thank you for giving to the church in this way!



Kerry McFarland has served as our finance secretary for the past 10 years, a task for which we are monumentally grateful! And it has not just been one task but many, moving us into digital recordkeeping as well as making moves to different programs for keeping track of giving. Accuracy, attention to detail and integrity have been her hallmarks throughout her tenure. We are especially grateful that this work was done as a generous gift to the church.

Kerry decided in 2021 that it was time for her to hand over the reins to another person, and we are delighted that Cesar Benavides has agreed to lead a team of people (yes—it might actually take a team to replace Kerry!) to do this important work. Please join the SPRC in warmly thanking Kerry for all of her work and with best wishes for her next pursuits!





## February Birthdays

- 3 Christine Jane Garner
- 6 Mary Lu Laveria  
Gene Arbuckle
- 7 Kayla Michelle Holland  
Davi Teaney
- 11 Mary Beth O'Hanlon
- 12 Stephanie Jourdan  
Mike Pena
- 14 Herb Purtle
- 16 Kamika Alberta Streets
- 18 Jodi Nichole Dennig Sword
- 20 Nancy Helge
- 21 Michael Shelton
- 22 Jeff Sacco
- 26 Zachary Benavides
- 27 Marinda Mohler



## What are Your Goals for 2022?

Is volunteering in your community one of them? Senior Access needs volunteers can help provide transportation



and other essential services for seniors who are no longer able to drive for themselves. Children are welcome to go with you. Drive at your convenience with no long term commitments. Volunteering with us is easy! Assign yourself rides that work with your calendar. Learn how you can serve by contacting Sherrie at 512-310-1060 or visit [sherrie@senioraccessstx.org](mailto:sherrie@senioraccessstx.org).

## Youth Schedule

2.4-2.6 Fri-Sun REVIVE  
Winter Retreat Camp  
Eagle. Registration  
required by 1.23

2.6 Sun \*NO UMYF\*

2.20 Sun UMYF



**Wesley Recreation** is a free sports program for 5th grades. Beginning January 7, 2022, we will meet on Fridays in the gym for Basketball from 3:30-5:30pm. There is no fee, but Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions please email the office at [secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com) or contact Kendall or Matt for details.



**Calling all volunteers!** We're in need of drivers at our Central Kitchen, St. Marks, Memorial United Methodist, Round Rock Grace and Pflugerville sites. If you, or someone you know in these area neighborhoods, would be interested in volunteering one hour of their time, we have plenty of opportunity to help!

Please call 737-218-4260 or email [volunteer@mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org](mailto:volunteer@mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org) for any questions.



# The Pastor's Corner

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)*

As the church continues in a season of light and discovery (the season after Epiphany), the words of this hymn stay close to me, and I hear them in both a literal and a spiritual way. ("Christ Be Our Light" words by Bernadette Farrell)

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.*

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

Indeed, at this time, it feels like we're waiting in darkness. The darkness is not just the literal sun setting around 5:30 (though that's getting later now), but it is the darkness of not knowing what to do next and finding it difficult to anticipate well how to cope with the issues facing humanity.

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us,  
make us your living voice.*

What does it mean for God to still be speaking in this world? In your family and circle of friends? What word is God offering in the midst of grief and longing through you?

*Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.*

What is currently feeding you, both spiritually and physically? With many fretting and worried about provisions on grocery store shelves and supply chain disruptions, what does it mean to share?

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless,  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.*

For many years, we've been walking alongside and serving those who are unsheltered. What are your prayers for them and for those who are going hand in hand with them? What does it mean to offer shelter to others and to find shelter ourselves? How can our church be not just a building but living stone?

*Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants of one another,  
making your kingdom come.*

Are there those in our congregation who we have tended to push to the margins, who don't feel included? Are there people in our neighborhood who yearn for a place to share their gifts or to be a part of something that is making a difference? How can we use our gifts and resources to create that space so that others are not hindered?

While we are in the midst of grief, let us be looking for the light and wondering what it means to be the people of God who have been planted in this community. With love and hope for all of us,

*Lynhia Kepler-Kramer*



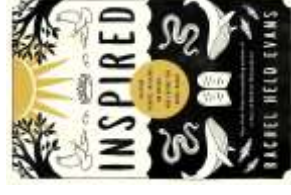
United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**United  
Methodist  
Women  
is back!**

**2nd Wednesday at 10:30am**

**in the Parlor**



## **Book Study coming in March**

**Tuesdays at 2:00pm  
in the parlor  
starting March 1**

“Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water,  
and Loving the Bible Again”

What does it mean that the Bible is “inspired”  
and that it inspires us? Rachel Held Evans’  
writing leads us on a tour of different Bible  
stories and how we wrestle with them.

Orders for books will be placed through  
Cokesbury (\$14) if ordered by February 15.  
Scholarships available (confidential through  
Pastor Cynthia)

If you cannot attend because of work or other  
commitments and wish to read along or  
participate, please let her know.

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