

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:

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Happy Valentines Day

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FEBRUARY 2023

LEGO Series "Building Blocks" Continues



Feb. 5th & 12th



Transfiguration Sunday February 19th

February
22nd
6:30pm
Sanctuary



February 26th First Sunday in Lent

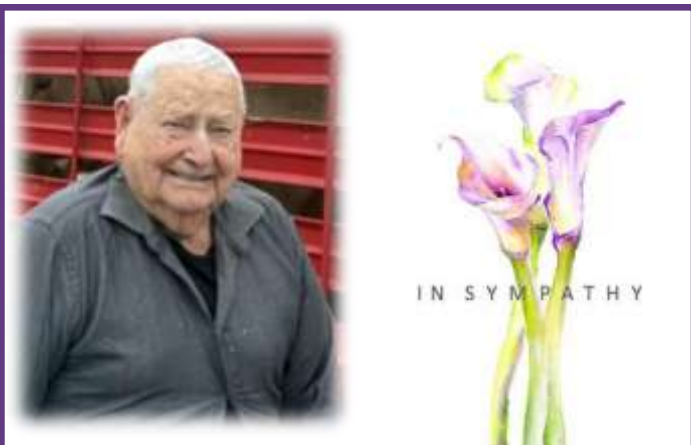


seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Join us this Lent as we explore the questions of scripture and our own lives. Questions that are curious, questions that are challenging, questions that are healing and restoring-questions that can help each of us to go deeper with Jesus.



Church News



John F. Nixon was a great husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, teacher, engineer, and businessman. He lived his 94 years of life to the fullest.

John was born July 31, 1928 to the parents of Hoary Harper and Bertha Elizabeth Nixon in Elliott, Texas (he always said Elliott was otherwise known as “Bug Scuffle” because it was the local pastime on Saturdays to watch the tumble bugs scuffle on the croquet court when all the work in the fields was done). He passed away at home, peacefully, on January 9, 2023. The service was held at Memorial United Methodist on January 13, 2023.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Paul and George Nixon and his sister, Frankie Mayes Breitenkamp. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Billie Doris (White) Nixon, daughter Gail Mohler and her husband Don of Leander, their children Jeremy (Keri) and four children, Marinda Katz (Ethan) and her daughter Lily Mohler, and Jonathan Mohler, daughter Deborah Dixon and husband Jerry of Albuquerque, NM, and their children Lauren Riley (Rustin) and their son Beau, and Evan Dixon, and son John Alan Nixon of Austin and his children Billie Florence Louis Nixon and John William Anton Nixon.

John met Billie Doris in 1949 in Seymour, Texas while working for the Highway Department as a surveyor in the summer. Upon discovering that she also attended Texas Technological College, John pursued her with vigor, and they were married December 28, 1949, then lived in the couples dormitory at Texas Tech until he graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

John spent 34 years working for the Texas Highway Department, starting in Munday, Texas and then moving to Austin in 1954 to work in the Road Design Division. He later served as head of Research

Engineering in Austin, for all of Texas. He facilitated many projects to make it safer to travel on Texas highways. After retiring from the Highway Department in 1983, John worked as a consultant for 4 years with Austin Research Engineers. He then started Nixon Engineering, doing a variety of contractor work including traffic counting, traffic control, bridge repairs and crack sealing.

John Nixon was a man of many interests. In addition to his engineering profession, he was a fix-it-yourself kind of guy – keeping all the cars running as well as farming and

ranching. He loved playing tennis and softball, gardening, caring for a variety of animals, hunting, traveling, and was a great role model for his family and co-workers. At 83-years of age he was brokering hay from his easy chair at home on the Hay Hot-line. Two years later he was in charge of a preventative maintenance job in east Texas where he ended up buying the historic Gingerbread House in Cherino.

John was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church for almost 60 years, and was always faithful with his prayers, presence, gifts, and service. He particularly enjoyed teaching Sunday school class.

His family wants to thank those who have given so much to help John enjoy life these last few years, and especially Khady Djiba and Brie Ramirez, along with friends at Juniper Village at Spicewood Summit.

He would be honored to have contributions made in his memory to Memorial UMC or your preferred charity.

Our, support, love and prayers go out to
Billie Nixon and the Nixon family.



James Aron Hall

Sept. 28, 1959– Dec. 11, 2022

James A. Hall attended various schools for the hearing impaired in San Antonio, Texas. He enjoyed blowing, dancing, laughing and having a good time. He played hard and lived hard. Whatever he set his mind to do, he did. With God as his only judge, James lived this life on his terms.

James was preceded in death by his brothers, Eddie Hall Jr. & Cedric R. Hall and his father. Rev. Eddie Hall Sr.

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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

Youth Schedule



Friday thru Sunday,
February 3-5, Revive
Winter Retreat at Camp
Eagle.

**Sunday February 19 – UMYF 6 pm (Sunday
School 9:45 am)**

****Registration is now open for UMARMY!**

We are considering either San Marcos,
June 11-16 or Fredericksburg, June 18-24

Wesley Rec Basketball



Wesley Recreation Center is a free sports program for 4th and 5th graders. In the Winter of 2023, we will be offering basketball on Mondays from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm for the first few weeks. The program will include instruction, games, and free time. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required. If you have any questions, please contact Kendall Smith 512-844-6809 or Kathleen Beuttenmueller 920-980-7313.

Winter dates: February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6



United
Women
in Faith

UWF will be accepting
donations year round of
underwear & sports bras for

Harris Elementary and diapers and snacks for
Wesley School. If you would like more details and
specifics please call Alberta Shelton at 512-300-3796



Pancake Breakfast

2nd Sunday of each month
in the Gym Kitchen/FHL
8:30am February 12th



UWF meets the 3rd
Wednesday of each month
10:30am in Pearce
February 15th



Bread Church
February 16th
7pm Gym Kitchen
Chocolate Caramel
Sticky Rolls

(continued from page 2)

He leaves fond memories with his immediate family:
Willie V. Hall, Willie Earl Hall, Angelia Ann Hall
Johnson (Henry Johnson Jr.), nieces, nephews and a
host of relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, we request your support of your
local homeless shelter with gently worn shoes, jackets
and new socks.

**The Memorial family prays comfort and
peace for the Hall Family.**



1929 Epworth League: The Annual Trip Around the World

Featuring food from different countries.



Holland— Fried chicken, Oste-kaka and Potato Salad

Mexico— Chili and Hot Tamales



Germany— Sauer Kraut & Wieners, and Dricka

America— Ice cream, Soda Water and Candy



France— Pie and Punch

Sweden— Coffee, Cookies, Toast and Coffee Cake



If you were doing a fundraiser today, what foods would you select?

UMW— Mrs. Lily Swahn helped host and later, at Memorial, was in charge of the turkey dinners. At Central Church (across the street from the capital) they held the dinners when the state legislators were in session. At Memorial UMC, the lines for ‘turkey dinners to go’ were said to go all the way down the hall from the original kitchen, out the door and to the street.

United Methodist Men’s — Dinners with famous speakers like ‘Swede’ Nelson Award winner for 1962, Pat Culpepper. Other fundraisers include: Sweetheart Dinners, Fish Fry’s, Pancake Dinners & Breakfasts, Potato Suppers and Take-Out Lunches.

First Chili Cook-off 1999- The United Methodist Men’s organized the cook-off and used the funds to donate to the food bank. Later, Ross Hise gathered coupons/gift cards from surrounding eateries to award as prizes. In later years, funds were raised for the Rainbow class to go to camp.

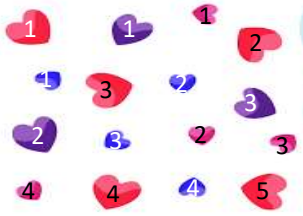
Owen’s Restaurant had two programs for churches to raise funds. One was to give patrons a 10% discount with a church bulletin. The second was ‘Wednesday Night Out’ where they sponsored a different church each week between 5pm-8pm with 10% of proceeds donated to that church. In September of 2003, Memorial had 131 people participate, raising \$123.31.



The first Coke Machine was installed at Central as a fundraiser for UMM. It was unfortunately placed right where the women’s group served coffee, so it had to be moved. It moved again with the church to the Berkman location in 1957. In 2017 the coke machine was removed as sales no longer supported its cost. Wow, do the math!

Inner Courtyard 1977

By Gloria McPhail



The Pastor's Corner

The leaders also presented offerings for the dedication of the altar at the time when it was anointed; the leaders presented their offering before the altar. ¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, "They shall present their offerings, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar." Numbers 7:10-11

Actually, before you read this article, you should really find a Bible (or your Bible app on your phone or computer) and read Numbers 7:12-88 too. I'll wait!

...
...

Now, if you didn't make it all the way through those verses, I don't blame you. If you discovered the pattern and figured that you didn't need to read to the end, you're not alone!

I'll admit that when I was writing out this book of the Bible, I didn't remember ever having read this passage before—likely because when I was reading it previously, my eyes just skimmed over the names and figured out that every single tribe had brought the exact same offering.

But I don't think the author/compiler of Numbers was trying to describe the offerings so much as making sure that everyone counted.

Every name is named. Every offering completely detailed. They're all added up in the end.

Before I married Clayton, I was a typical movie-goer—more than 90% of people either get up as soon as the credits start rolling or they may wait until the main actor credits go by, and I was a part of that bunch. But even before Marvel movies started adding bonus scenes (sometimes just funny, sometimes with key information for the next film or films), Clayton stuck to his habit of remaining until the last name had gone by.

It's a practice that I now follow as well. I like the thought of acknowledging every single person who worked on a film, reading the names of some of the different jobs they perform (especially now that I know what some of those jobs mean!). And it reminds me of this passage.

No tribe is given short shrift in this passage. From the first day of offerings to the last, each person and tribe is given an opportunity to honor God and to be listed. No one is forgotten or considered "less."

And for me, at least, there's a strong lesson in grace in this passage.

When I was writing all of these verses out, my main thought was "how tedious"—it took a lot longer because I kept losing my place on the page, going back and forth between the text and my copy. I wondered why each offering had to be completely written out, even if all of the names were named.

But then I realized that this is how we all come to God. In the end, what we consider huge differences in what we have to offer—whether it's the accumulation of wealth or other resources, the number of hours we have given to mission or ministry, our faithfulness in worship attendance and discipleship, well, they add up to about the same thing when set alongside how much grace God offers. Not a single one of us offers enough to God that we don't need God's grace or Jesus' love.

Instead of seeing this passage now as tedious, I keep going back to it, reading the names, thinking about how I would name the people who have built up this congregation, thinking about those who have built up this district and conference. As I fill out our end of the year paperwork (full of numbers!), I remember that I am not just adding and subtracting—that I am using a number to describe real people, every single one of whom "counts".

You are named. You are loved. Your offerings to God are accepted. Your life is covered by grace. You count.

And so does the person sitting next to you, living next to you, on the street corner or in the corner suite. This is Good News! Thanks be to God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Kepler-Jauer".



New Breeze Giving Link

New Breeze Online Giving is Now Active. You can check this out on the homepage on our website at www.memorialumcaustin.com or link here: [Breeze Online Giving](#)

Breeze also includes a new option to 'Text to Give' at 512-882-1966.

The Ezekiel giving platform will be retired soon. If you have a recurring gift set up, you will need to go to the New Breeze Online Giving to set that up again.

More details and instruction will be coming soon.



Pastor Cynthia is looking for one or more volunteers to organize ordering and to pick up Lilies for Easter. Please contact Pastor Cynthia for details.

