

The Newsletter

February 2019

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 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 a.m.

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



February 2019



Sunday February 17th

Annual Chili Cook-Off

After Service in the Gym

\$6 Adult Tickets/ \$4 Kids Tickets

Volunteers Needed

See Wanda Adams (512) 439-9432

or Susan Froebel (512) 424-5374 to sign up, get tickets and volunteer.



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By **Billie Nixon**
Membership
Coordinator

Happy News about weddings, births or graduations from our church members are always a blessing!



To Kendall & Laura Smith, in the death of Kendall's brother, Wayne Randolph 'Randy' Smith who went to the Lord Dec. 19, 2018. Randy was born Nov. 2, 1945 to Rev. Wayne & Eleanor Jo Smith. He had two sisters, Gwen Gabriel and Cherry Crawford and a brother, Kendall Smith, along with numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

Randy was married to Sue North and they had one child, Clark Wayne Smith, who preceded him in death. Randy had an exciting life of serving God and others in many ways and countries.

About six years ago, deteriorating health caused him to give up his home to move to assisted living in Landmark Healthcare Nursing home.

Services were held at 11am on Thursday Dec. 27, 2018 at Memorial United Methodist Church.



Weddings

Recently Hildegard Kothmann informed me that Kara Kothmann and Nathan Erwin were united in marriage December 30, 2018 in Hutto, Texas.

Kara is the daughter of Sheila Kothmann, granddaughter of Hiledegard Kothmann and a Latin teacher at Dripping Springs High School. Nathan is the son of Delta & Greg Erwin, grandson of Elayne Stewart and is a golf pro at Austin Golf Club.

After a short honeymoon, they will reside in Austin, TX.

Congratulations to each of you and may God bless you richly in 2019!

To the family of Catherine O'Brien Lancaster who passed away on Dec. 27, 2018 in Dallas, TX.



Catherine was such a special lady who became an active member in Memorial's life on Oct. 27, 2017.

She and her husband John Lancaster lived in Austin for many years, but John had been ill for a long time; he preceded her in death earlier in 2017.

They had two sons, Michael and Patrick Lancaster, both in the Dallas area, and one grandson, Austin Lancaster, who lives in the Austin area.

Graveside services were held Saturday Jan. 5, 2019.



Love and Concern go to many members and their families who have experienced death recently.

To Cesar Benevides on the death of his mother, Maria Elena Benevides and the Family and Friends of Peggy Sismilich. More information will follow in the March Newsletter.

We at Memorial do care and sincerely pray that God will comfort you with His love and peace during this time of sorrow.



To Anne DeMark, in the death of her mother, Elizabeth DeMark who passed away on Monday November 20, 2018 in Austin.

She had an exciting life, married to Guy DeMark. Together they had two daughters. Elizabeth is survived by one brother and many other relatives. Services were held

at 10am Dec. 1, 2018 at Assumption Cemetery in Austin, TX.





Women's News

Submitted by Alberta Shelton

Memorial UMW sent \$1450.00 to the mission field in 2018. We had a membership of 30. We lost 3 members, Cleo Wilson, Billie Talley and Catherine Lancaster.

We organized a new subgroup, the WHO (Widows Helping Others), who meet after church on the 4th Sunday.

Sixteen Christmas bags were prepared for church shut-ins and delivered.

We are still working to reorganize the Children's Library in the Children's Chapel. We meet on the second Tuesday at 10 A.M. and could really use some help. No special skills needed. When we finish that we will return to the Adult Library.

BIF meets on the first Tuesday at 10 A.M. for Bible and Faith studies. All are welcome.



We now have an option to give to Memorial UMC online through our website. This way of giving is not meant to replace normal giving paths (electronic funds transfer, checks or cash), but to offer people an additional way to support the ministry of the church. If you have friends or know of people who have wondered how they can give to the church for a memorial donation or to support a ministry outreach that they are particularly interested in, that's a great place to send them. We hope to get connected to more folks who value the ministry that we do and want to support it through giving. For more information, contact the church office at 512-452-5796.

www.MemorialUMCAustin.com



Join Your Church
Every 2nd Sunday
of the month for
Pancake Breakfast in
the Gym
February 10th
8:30am



2019 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 drop it in the slot in the secretary office when you sign up.

Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and signup today.

Do you enjoy making bread from scratch? Have you always wanted to learn how to make your own, but are just a little intimidated by the process? Want to hang out, learn some new recipes and think about the way that God works on your spirit?



Bread Church
Thursday 7pm
February 21st in the Gym



In 1969, a group of Minnesota teens walked to fight hunger – and the CROP Hunger Walk was born. Today, 50 years later, walkers of every age continue the fight to end hunger now. You are invited to walk this year; perhaps for the first time; perhaps you remember walking in the past.



Fifty dollars for 50 years: can you raise \$50 to celebrate 50 years of fighting hunger?

Sign up for the Austin CROP Hunger Walk today. You can pick up a walker

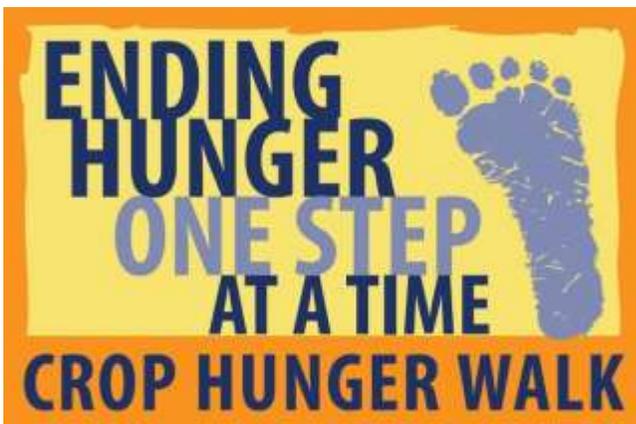
envelope from kc in the church office. Or you can register online at www.crophungerwalk.org/austintx

The Walk is Sunday, February 24, 2019, at Camp Mabry. Check-in starts at 2:00 pm; the walk begins at 2:30 pm. If you are unable to attend on Walk day, feel free to take a walk in your neighborhood or around the church!

And don't hesitate to give me a call or email if you have any questions about Austin's CROP Hunger Walk.

Kevin Murphy, Community Engagement Specialist
Church World Service
(512)775-3124

kmurphy@cwsglobal.org



Girl Scout Troop 172



To Get your Cookies before they are gone for the year, see Alberta Shelton for more info. **COOKIE TIME!!**



We are a family. When you think about family, do you think about your parents, children,

grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins? There are various relationships within each of our families. But family can reach beyond that as well. We may have a community family or a church family or friends we call family.

Senior Access becomes like a family to many of our clients and volunteers. We can help clients whose children may not be able to leave their work to take their parents to all of their doctor appointments. Perhaps the children live far away and cannot be here as often as they would like. Some of our clients do not have any family. Our volunteers step in and provide the loving service that a child, grandchild or other relative may not be able to do. Our volunteers offer friendship and a listening ear. Volunteers provide a human touch to so many of our clients who are lacking in that area.

On the other side, some of our volunteers are looking for a place to belong. They find it in serving and in fellowship with other volunteers. They are able to connect with someone who may be like a grandparent or a parent to them. They may find someone who can be an aunt or uncle, an older sibling or cousin. Volunteers can learn wisdom from our clients who have so many life stories to share. Volunteers can teach their children that older adults are a vital part of our community and friendships can form no matter the age difference.

February is a great time to celebrate the love you feel for your family, community family and church family. Senior Access invites you to join our family and share your love with your senior neighbors. Imagine the great things that will happen when we all work together as a family. Contact Sherrie at 512 310 1060 or vr@senioracesstx.org for more information.

We invite you to join our family as we look forward to Amplify Austin February 28-March 1 and our 16th annual Golf Tournament on May 2. Go to www.senioracesstx.org for more details about each event.





Pastor's Corner



“When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.’

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.” (Acts 15:4-6)

From the beginnings of Christianity, those who claimed Christ as Lord have been trying to figure out what that means. This passage from Acts deals with one of the very first disagreements which was worked out by early adopters of the faith—whether or not Gentile believers would have to become Jewish in order to follow the Way of Jesus the Christ. The council met together and heard from Peter and Paul and Barnabas, who talked about their work on Christ’s behalf among the Gentiles. They eventually decided that they would send Paul and Barnabas, along with their own representatives, Judas (not *that* Judas) and Silas, to let the Gentile believers know what they needed to do in order to follow Jesus. They just needed to not eat that which had been sacrificed to idols or anything that had been strangled and stay away from fornication.

This was one of the first instances of “working out” of what faith through Jesus Christ might mean. Those who were considered knowledgeable were asked to consider testimony. Then they sought what seemed best—BOTH to themselves and to the Holy Spirit and sent word out.

On February 23-26, United Methodists from around the world will meet in St. Louis, MO, for a special called session of General Conference. For over 40 years, controversy has swirled around The United Methodist Church over the positions that the General Conference takes on issues related to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. Because the General Conference is made up of people from all over the world, we each bring different cultural backgrounds and assumptions to the picture. Some people and churches have already broken away from the denomination because of their stance and include folks who hold many different ideas about these positions. There are some places where being more open to the leadership of LGBTQ persons and offering rites such as marriage and ordination would help the mission and ministry. There are places where it would not. Reasons for both positions come from both cultural backgrounds and from readings and approaches to scripture.

In 2016, at our regular General Conference, the body asked the bishops of the church to lead and come up with a plan to maintain the unity of the UMC. That led to the Way Forward Commission, whose work over the next two years was to come up with a hopeful way that the UMC could organize themselves for the good of our mission and ministry. You can read their report at http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/news_and_statements/documents/Way_Foward_Report_-_Final_-_ENGLISH.pdf

The General Conference may adopt some form of legislation strengthening the current language, which excludes LGBTQ persons from being married through the UMC or serving as ordained clergy if they are married. It might also decide to allow for conferences and congregations to consult the Holy Spirit’s direction for themselves on these positions. It may decide to strip all language from the Discipline related at all to LGBTQ persons. They may come away with no decision at all, in which case our current Discipline stands.

In February, I will be taking the time after worship on February 10th and 17th to show some videos which describe in further detail both the process and the potential results of many of the plans that are before our General Conference. I will also publish links to those videos through our email list. I hope that ALL of us spends time each day praying for the General Conference to truly hear the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they meet together once again for the sake of our witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

There are several ongoing events and new events that may not be listed. Please check the building use calendar or call office if you need to reserve space.

*** Starred * Events Happen Each Week**

Friday February 1

*10:00am-1:00pm - Freestore Accepting Donations

Saturday February 2

*9:00-11:00am FreeStore Shopping each Saturday

Sunday February 3

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

5:00-7:00pm Youth Group - Youth Room/Gym

Monday February 4

*10:00am-1:00pm - Freestore Accepting Donations

*6:00pm Girl Scouts - Believer's Room & Gym

*6:30pm Austin Harmony - Gym

Tuesday February 5

* 9:30am-12:30pm English Class - FHL

10:00am BIF - Pearce

Wednesday February 6

*11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping

*7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday February 7

* 9:30am-12:30pm English Class - FHL

2:00-4:00pm Concert - Parlor

Friday February 8

Saturday February 9

Sunday February 10

8:30am Pancake Breakfast - Gym

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

Monday February 11

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

Tuesday February 12

10:00am Reading & Library - Children's Library

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce



Wednesday February 13

Thursday February 14 Valentine's Day

4:00-6:30pm Girl Scouts - Believer's/Gym

7:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

Friday February 15 March NL Content Due

Saturday February 16

Sunday February 17

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:45am Chili Cook Off - Gym

5:00-7:00pm Youth Group - Youth Room/Gym



Monday February 18

Tuesday February 19

Wednesday February 20

Thursday February 21

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

Friday February 22

Saturday February 23

Sunday February 24

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am WHO Group - Pearce

2:00pm Crop Walk

Registration

At Camp Mabry

2:30pm Crop Walk Step Off



Monday February 25

Tuesday February 26

Wednesday February 27

Thursday February 28

4:00-6:30pm Girl Scouts - Believer's/Gym

*Please Note that these ongoing events are in the same space and on the same day each week, such as: Choir Rehearsal, FreeStore Shopping, Girl Scouts, AH Choral and more.

Schedule Your Space Use

Any group wanting to use a room at the church for a meeting needs to make arrangements with the church office. You can make a one-time reservation or an on-going reservation. Check availability at 512-452-5796 or secretary@Memorialumcaustin.com





February Birthdays

- 3rd Christine Jane Garner
- 6th Mary Lue Laveria
Gene Arbuckle
- 11th Mary Beth O'Hanlon
- 12th Stephanie Jourdan
Mike Pena
- 14th Herb Purtle
- 16th Kamika Alberta Streets
- 18th Jodi Nichole Dennig Sword
- 20th Nancy Helge
- 21st Michael Shelton
- 22nd Jeff Sacco
- 25th Carolyn Chandler Brown
- 26th Zachary Benavides
- 27th Marinda Mohler
- 28th Carol Logan



Help deliver meals to your homebound neighbors! Weekday Volunteer Drivers and substitutes needed; delivery routes take one hour or less; additional sites open all over Austin.

Thank you,
 Emma Roberts
 Volunteer Recruitment Specialist
 3227 East 5th Street
 Austin, Texas 78702
 p. 512.476.6325 x 145
www.mealsonwheelscentraltexas.org



Wednesdays
 11am-1pm
 and Saturdays
 9am-11am



Monday,
 Wednesday,
 Friday 10am-
 and
 Saturdays 8:30am-11am
 In Gym (not the office)



Please be in prayer for our congregation and friends.



Ash Wednesday Services

March 6th Noon and 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

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