

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 Worship

Find all our Newsletters on our

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Happy Valentine's Day!!

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February 2021



embodied
MIND • BODY • HEART • SOUL

In many ways our journey through the COVID-19 pandemic has taken us out of our bodies. We have reacted to other bodies in fear when they are too close or might be infectious. We have been disembodied on the other end of a phone line or a computer screen for many interactions.

This Lent, we will look at how God in Jesus seeks to integrate all these parts of us—the parts with which we are supposed to be loving God wholeheartedly—through how Jesus lived, died and rose again. And while each of us may feel most comfortable in one of the areas, we will also learn how to stretch ourselves and find a connection to other parts of our own identities.

In addition to our regular Sunday worship opportunities (streaming, via email link and through snail mail), there will be Wednesday videos as well as a Lenten goodie bag (available at the Feb 7 drive-up worship service and by mail or delivery) for you to remain engaged with the season of the church year at home. The goodie bag will contain resources to mark Ash Wednesday as well as a Lenten devotional and other activities or suggestions.

Our Ash Wednesday service will also be streamed and sent out as we do our Sunday morning services.





News From Pews

By Billie
Nixon
Membership
Coordinator

Happy New Year All! Here is a quick update for those on our prayer list recently.

Earlier news, Jan Purtle's sister passed and also John Nixon's sister passed during the holidays.

Jane Friedrich has been quarantined at her care facility. Her son, Richard has had the virus, quarantining at their farm. Judy, his wife, drives to their farm & has been cooking & leaving it at the doorstep. As you know, Judy, is a nurse, their oldest son Drew & wife are expecting their second child in about 2 weeks. Julia, their first daughter is now 3 1/2 years old and excited for the new baby girl coming soon.

Stephanie Jourdan's sister, Pat, has had the virus and Pat's her husband is ill from things unrelated to Covid.

JoAnn Bennink has been very ill with her usual cancer treatments and the virus has also hit her hard.

Alberta Shelton spent several days in the hospital over the holidays. She is now doing much better.

Wanda Adams suffered an injury due to a fall.

The Dennig's in Tyler, TX are doing well, especially since William had his pacemaker implanted! Nicole and her husband, Aaron had a touch of the virus but have recovered now.

Anne DeMark is well, working from home and like everyone else enjoyed the snow a couple weeks ago.

Carole Garner and her family seem to be well. She now has a picnic table in her front yard where she can sit, eat and have fellowship with friends.

Larry Tiemann has moved to Pflugerville sharing his home with cousin David and another friend.

Patty & Pat Marcum report they are well, staying home and keeping up with home projects.

Kent Bures our ex-organist whose birthday was Jan. 11th, responded to the birthday card I sent, with his Thanks for remembering his birthday. "Can you believe I am 64 years old, almost Medicare age! Love to you and all" He was loved by all of us and can't be forgotten.

Those that missed the Christmas Eve service on the lawn missed a wonderful treat. Clayton, Cynthia and helpers did a lot of hard work and it was very spiritual.

Our family enjoyed the beautiful snow a couple weeks ago and still miss seeing everyone at church! Please send us your updates on how you are doing or your email prayer requests to secretary@memorialumcaustin.com



Soccer!! Memorial has received such a generous donation from the Eagle Scouts Zachary Domsch. He has raised over a thousand dollars to be able to supply the

youth of the church and the community with soccer goals, soccer balls, cones, pennies, soccer benches, a field line, and much more. The soccer goals are up and ready to be used, and they have already been used in our Sunday outdoors meeting with the youth last semester. We look forward to using them with the youth of the church and with the youth in our outreach ministry of Wesley Recreation this Spring. We are so thankful for all the long hours Zachary Domsch put into this project and kept it moving forward despite COVID. We are appreciative to Zach, Eagle Scouts, his family, and friends who came out to finish the project. We are thankful for the goodness of the Lord that we have experienced through them.



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



The Pastor's Corner

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. (1 John 4:7-9)

Sunday, February 14 will not be a liturgical dedication to love. It is, however, the Sunday before Lent starts, which means we will be talking about Jesus' transfiguration, which is another column entirely! Still, I find myself wondering, especially after a lot of talk about God's love for us being the pattern for loving one's neighbor, what that actually looks like—to those of us who are "inside" the congregation, to those who are disengaged from God, to those who are non-believers altogether.

I keep finding myself going back to some categorizations from a book called *The Five Love Languages*. In it, the authors talk about the way that we understand love being shown to us or others and the way that we speak our love to others. These love languages are

Words of affirmation

Quality time

Receiving gifts

Acts of service

Physical touch

The idea is that everyone has at least one primary way in which they hear others expressing love. Usually that corresponds to the way that they choose to express their love to others. Sometimes the problem is that people can be speaking different love languages right past each other and they don't understand why the other person either doesn't love them (because they can't hear that person's particular language) or that the other person doesn't hear them saying "I love you" (because that person doesn't understand yours either!).

So the solution is to become proficient in more than one language, even if you retain your primary one (or two).

And I will note that just because this book was marketed particularly to couples doesn't mean that we don't function like this simply as human beings! In fact, I can see how, if the leadership of a congregation only acknowledges one or two different kinds of love languages, that could radically shift how they function!

But notice how Jesus speaks all of these? That each of these ways of expressing love is something that he embodies and points out to his disciples? He gives words of affirmation to them and to us. He spends quality time with them. He serves them as he washes their feet. And he reaches out to touch people—even the lepers.

I will admit that the idea of Jesus giving gifts had me a little stumped (you don't usually think about Jesus bringing others gift bags) until I began to think about turning a small lunch into a feast for thousands and telling them where to cast their nets. And while there may be some overlap with acts of service there, the person whose belly is full knows it to be a gift.

So where have you particularly experienced God's love? How do you know that others love you? And what are the ways that you are trying to tell others that you love them?

And...where do you see love being spoken in the relationship that our congregation has within itself...and with our neighbors? What are some ways that we're already expressing our love for them? And can we identify where we need to boost our language skills?

Since God is love, let us look at this as a profoundly spiritual task—to learn to speak about God in a way that we have experienced as life-giving and a way that others might experience that as well!

February Newsletter



1/30/21	Cooking Class
1/31/21	Reg. Youth
2/14/21	Reg. Youth
2/28/21	Reg. Youth
March	TBA
4/04/20*	Easter Sunday
4/18/21	Reg. Youth
5/02/21.	Reg. Youth
5/16/21	Reg. Youth
5/30/21	Reg. Youth

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