

# 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 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Worship - 10:30 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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# January 2020



## January 5th— Epiphany Sunday

Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi to worship Jesus. At the first of the year, we also take time to renew our covenant with God, a Wesleyan tradition. Join us for this special service and take time to be attentive to the signs God is sending!



## January 12th— Baptism of the Lord

The Sunday following Epiphany is almost always when we celebrate Jesus' baptism. It is also an appropriate day for baptisms and renewals of baptism. If you have not been baptized and wish to be, please let Pastor Cynthia know immediately so that she can meet with you to discuss this important gift from God in a life of faith.



**By Billie Nixon**                      **Membership Coordinator**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Everyone has a story about their lives. I wish each of you would write yours so we could print it!

It so happens I was asked to write mine and John's— here it goes.

Our story began in 1949. It so happened that both of us were attending Texas Tech University. John came to Seymour, TX working with the Texas Highway Department between semesters. I didn't know it then, but John's older brother Paul was a friend of my dad's and his fishing buddy. I had known him since I was 14 years old. John F. asked me out on a date and I was reluctant at first. Finally we began dating that summer, primarily going to all the rodeo's in the surrounding towns.

When the fall semester began, we both went back to school in our respective dorms, there were no co-ed dorms then. By October we were engaged and planning our wedding for the next June after graduation. In early December my grandfather passed and I left for his funeral. Persistent John called to say repeatedly "let's get married at Christmas!" We did end up getting married over our holiday break on December 28th, 1949.

Next we were back at school, now in the couples dorm which was mostly GI's and we're the youngest of the bunch!

After graduation in May, John began his first full time job in Munday, Texas where we spent the next four years.

In July of 1952 our first daughter was born, Gail Nixon. In July of 53 John got a promotion while still with the highway department and we moved to our first home in Austin on Ridgemont. Memorial was not built yet so we joined Shettles Methodist Church. Two more children and ten years later, Deborah Kay & John Alan Nixon were born and we

joined Memorial United Methodist. This is where we raised our family alongside the Sheltons, Freidrichs, Hausers, Capps, Benninks and so on.... Ahh where has the time gone?

At that point, we had out grown our little home and moved to Windward off Rogge in the country again. Later we moved across town but Memorial is still our home and where our hearts are.

John retired, started his own business, all our children grew up, got married and began their families. Even a fourth generation has begun arriving!

That sums us up. We have been married 70 years this upcoming December 28, 2019.

Our children want to celebrate us at Memorial United Methodist after church service on Sunday Dec. 29, 2019 with a reception in the Parlor.

I do hope you can come and be a part of this happy occasion!



*Happy* 70th  
*Anniversary*



**\*\*Sunday December 22 – No UMYF**



**Sunday January 5 – UMYF 5 pm/7:15 pm  
Youth Room/Gym**

**Sunday January 19 – UMYF 5 pm/7:15 pm  
Youth Room/Gym**

## *February* EVENTS

**Upcoming Events in February:**

**MID-WINTER CAMP**

**REVIVE MidWinter Camp –**

**Mount Wesley Feb 7-9**

**REVIVE MidWinter Camp –**

**Camp Eagle Feb 14-16**

**Capitol District MidWinter –**

**Camp Buckner Burnet Feb 29-Mar 1**



Thank you for your gifts and financial support of our ministries at MUMC! Memorial has continued to be a blessing to our neighbors and neighborhood in the midst of a difficult financial season. Please remember to fulfill your pledge for this year if possible and consider a gift beyond your pledge to help us finish 2019 strong. Remember that for tax purposes all gifts must be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/19.

We are also still receiving Estimate of Giving Cards for 2020.



**On Epiphany Sunday  
Jan. 5th, we will be collecting  
underwear & sports bras for  
Harris Elementary.  
\*\*\*Needed Sizes for  
4th & 5th grades.**



## Is Serving Others One of Your 2020 New Year's Resolutions?

[This time of year tends to focus on reflections of the past year and what you want to do in the upcoming year. Is serving one of the items on your resolution list? Blogger, Melissa, at A Sparkle of Genius had this to say about her resolution to serve.](#)

“Tradition is to make the perfect list of how you are going to become the perfect you,” Melissa wrote. “This year a friend shared a video with me that tugged on my heart strings and really made me realize the importance of helping others. The video made me want to use my resolutions for ways other than trying to FIX me - in a way that will help FIND me, and as a result, possibly even meet some of those past, unmet resolutions.”



Melissa continued, “Service, love and helping others in return helps us all. Where this time in my life, I don’t have the financial means to serve with grander, but I can have the ability to help with the little things. And lots of little things add up to being a big thing in the lives of the people we help.”



If you are like Melissa and would like to serve more in the upcoming year, we can help. Senior Access is looking for volunteers that can help provide transportation and other essential services for seniors who are no longer able to drive for themselves. Whether it’s an hour a week, or a couple hours a month, you too can change someone’s life this coming year! If you or a family member are interested in volunteering, please contact Sherrie to learn more at 512-310-1060 | [sherrie@senioracesstx.org](mailto:sherrie@senioracesstx.org), or visit our website at [www.senioracesstx.org](http://www.senioracesstx.org).



**Begins Jan. 15th**

### Girl Scout Troop 172 is...

Moving to Wednesday nights in 2020!!  
See Alberta Shelton for more info.



**Calling all volunteers! We're in need of drivers at our Central Kitchen and Parker Lane United Methodist sites. If you, or someone you know in the East Austin neighborhood, would be interested in volunteering one hour of their time, we have plenty of opportunity to help! We host open house volunteer trainings each Thursday, starting at 12:15pm, at our Central Kitchen. We would love to see you there!**

Sam Fullilove Volunteer Recruitment Specialist  
3227 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, Texas 78702  
p. 512.476.6325 x 145

# PASTOR

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church will be worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*  
1 Timothy 5:17

*“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.” (Matthew 4:18-20)*

The day Amazon Studios came to film at Memorial was buzzing with equipment all over the building and catering all over the front lawn and people everywhere! This sign was placed outside our choir room to let those folks who had been hired as extras for the day know where they could relax while they were waiting for filming to start.

I got the chance to speak with a couple of the extras as they were standing around the halls. They wanted to know about the church, and one was especially interested in the pipes for the pipe organ (it turned out that he was a former AISD director of fine arts and that he currently attends church with Kent Burrell, the organist who was responsible for getting the pipe façade installed!). There were eight in all—people who had stories of their own and lives of their own and who each had their own excitement about being an extra.

And here’s the thing—not a single one of them had any audible lines on camera, at least that day. They were seen in the background, walking out of our Memorial Room and out the back door. They had been at a sober prayer group meeting according to the script. None of them got to say anything, but their presence implied a whole lot more—their presence was, in fact, crucial to the storyline.

Andrew is one of the disciples that seems like he would be pretty important in the hierarchy—the brother of Peter and one of the first called. Yet there’s only one Gospel (John) where he even gets a speaking line (he introduces the boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus). Yet his presence and his following Jesus is crucial, not only to his own life story, but also to our understanding that people were willing to follow Jesus in his own day because they believed he had something crucial about life to teach them and they were willing to dedicate their lives pretty completely to him.

You may not feel like you have a significant role in the church or in a life of faith. But your presence—in worship, in discipleship opportunities, in following Jesus intentionally in everyday life—is a crucial part of what God is doing in the world. One would think that God sending the “star”—Jesus!—would be enough. But God so loved the world that he called extras, with stories of their own and a vital role to play in telling the story of Jesus to the world.

See you in worship and in ministry!



*Cynthia Kepler Hauer*



# JANUARY 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**

**Wednesday January 1 Office Closed**

**Thursday January 2**

**Friday January 3**

**Saturday January 4**

**Sunday January 5 Epiphany Sunday**

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

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

\*6:00-8:00pm Al-Anon - Library

**Monday January 6**

\*6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

**Tuesday January 7**

10:00am BIF - Pearce

**Wednesday January 8**

\*3:30pm-5:15pm Wesley Rec Center - Gym

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

\*7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday January 9**

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

\*7:00am-9:00pm Al-Anon - Library

7:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

**Friday January 10**

**Saturday January 11**

10:00am Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc. - FHL

**Sunday January 12 Baptism of the Lord**

8:30am Pancake Breakfast - Gym Kitchen

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

**Monday January 13**

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

**Tuesday January 14**

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

**Wednesday January 15 February NL Content Due**

**Thursday January 16**

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

**Friday January 17**

**Saturday January 18**

**Sunday January 19**

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

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

**Monday January 20**

*Office closed in observance of MLK Day.*

**Tuesday January 21**

9:00am-12:00pm English Class - FHL

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

**Wednesday January 22**

**Thursday January 23**

9:00am-12:00pm English Class - FHL

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

**Friday January 24**

**Saturday January 25**

**Sunday January 26**

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am WHO Group - Pearce

**Monday January 27**

**Tuesday January 28**

**Wednesday January 29**

**Thursday January 30**

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

**Friday January 31**

5:00pm-7:00pm Rover Youth Event - Gym

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

*As of printing time, we do not have registration or start days for our Winter/Spring English Class. Stay tuned for email and website updates on when that will happen in January!*



# January Birthdays

- 1st Jean Breazeale
- 2nd Candy Valentine
- 4th Jeremy Mohler
- 5th Bambi Teaney
- 8th Mary Bryant  
Forrest William Mohler
- 11th Johnie Madison
- 12th Kay Dunbar  
Matthew Shelton
- 13th Kendall Smith
- 15th Susan Froebel
- 16th Carl Helge  
Travis Purtle
- 17th James Shelton
- 21st Clay Ericson  
Eric Reinhart
- 23rd Connie Tatom
- 26th Steve Jourdan
- 31st Kirk Amundson



## 2020 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. Bouquets are \$20.00 each - two maximum per Sunday. Stop and sign up today!**



Join Your Church Every 2nd Sunday of the month for Pancake Breakfast in the Gym

January 12th  
8:30am

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**  
**January 16th in the Gym**



## Worship Readers Wanted

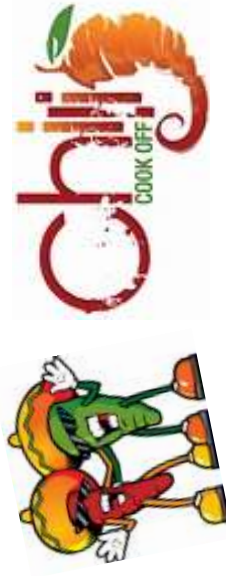
We are constantly seeking people who would like to participate in worship by reading scripture or offering the Prayers of the People. We believe that the more voices we hear, the more we understand that liturgy is the work of all the people--not just the pastor and choir. If you would like to receive more information about doing this or would like to receive some tips and tricks for how to do it more effectively, please let the office know, and Pastor Cynthia would be happy to speak with you. You can also speak directly to Daphne Turnage our scheduler, to be on the list of readers and pray-ers!

# January Newsletter

**Mission:** *To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**Vision:** *A Christian community aspiring to live its mission with passion, generosity, and intentionality.*

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Fax: 512-450-0323  
Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)



Annual Chili Cook Off  
Sunday February 23rd

See Wanda Adams

Or Susan Froebel for more info.