

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

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Happy
2023



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January

2023

Epiphany Prayer Service

January 1st

Epiphany is generally the Sunday on or immediately before January 6. It is the 12th Day of Christmas, and it is when we celebrate the coming of the Magi/Wise Men (does the Twelve Days of Christmas with all its gifts suddenly make more sense?). This year, we hope you will think about the gifts of the new year and come and worship with a service that will include interactive prayer stations and a special reading by Kathleen Beuttenmueller.

Baptism of the Lord

January 8th

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. Our service will include a time for both communal and individual re-commitments to baptism, so if you would like to individually remember your baptism, please let Pastor Cynthia know too!



Church News



United Women in Faith

United Methodist Women is Now

United Women in Faith



10 Members enjoyed Christmas celebration by stuffing gift bags for shut ins and arranging delivery. We all exchanged gifts and enjoyed a wonderful



potluck. The variety of food was perfect!



UWF made the annual pledge to missions for the year. We've enjoyed serving the pancake breakfast each month. Please join us each 2nd Sunday of the

month at 8:30am in the gym.

UWF sent \$50 to Brown Santa



Our group had a great reading and discussion of Luke's and Matthew's gospel.

Like the things we often overlook in the reading. Such as how many wise men were there, the Bible doesn't say, and Luke's probable friendship with Mary.

By Alberta Shelton

"Building Blocks"

A worship series starting January 15



What are we building?

What will we need?

Where can God's imagination take us?

Our winter worship series leading up to Lent will include special showings of *The Lego Movie* and *The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part* as well as opportunities to take part in building worship displays. This is a great opportunity to invite kids and families to join us in worship!



January Birthdays

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



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 2022 strong. Remember that for tax purposes all gifts must be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/22.



**On Epiphany Sunday
Jan. 1st & Jan. 8th we will be
collecting underwear & sports
bras for Harris Elementary.
***Girls sizes 8-12 and
Boys sizes S or M**



Youth Schedule

**Wednesday December
21 CHRISTMAS
BREAK LOCK-IN!**

6 pm to 6 am. Go Karts, Laser Tag, games food, fun, fellowship and worship!

No youth activities through Christmas
Sunday January 8 - UMYF 6 pm

(Sunday School 9:45 am)

Alberta/Holly snack Supper

Friday thru Sunday, January 13-15,

**Capital District Midwinter
Retreat at T-Bar-M Camp in
New Braunfels**

Sunday January 22 – UMYF 6 pm

(Sunday School 9:45 am)

Cesar/Lucas/Zach snack supper

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

Registration due January 23.



Pancake Breakfast

2nd Sunday of each month in
the Gym Kitchen/FHL

8:30am January 9th



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

Do You Remember

Our church has used advertisement to pay for the printing of the church directory and annual reports form the 1930. The church magazine, newsletter, church newspaper, chili cook-off and the plays from the 1950-1980.



The church also paid to advertise the church in the newspaper, the yellow pages and on taxis. Now we do so on social media and our website.

See if you remember any of these supporters? HEB: Glenn Garner & Associates: Gem Fabric Centers: Gage furniture: Hillcrest Farms: Studtman Photo Service: French Place Foods: J. R. Reed Music Company: Typewriter Service Co.: Driskill Hotel: McPhail's Wayside Gardens: Long Star Bakery: Austin Turkish Baths Manual Swedish Massage

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By Gloria McPhail



Meet the Cookies

Cookie Season in Austin Begins

January 18th

Be on the lookout for Saturday sales at MUMC

"Two Too Many" A Picture Give Away

While waiting for church to start, take some time to browse through the pictures in the Narthex. We have doubles of so many pictures and want to share with everyone. Please take the picture of your family and friends who have moved away.





The Pastor's Corner

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5-7

One of my favorite Christmas gifts when I was a kid was a game called “Perfection”.

Now, there is probably a whole sermon to be preached or at least a psychological analysis that could be done on me, even if all you knew about the game was its title! But for further context, the game consisted of a board with differently shaped holes in it and individual pieces which could fit into each of the holes. To play, you would mix up the pieces next to the case that the board sat in, then push down the board, which was held in place by a lever. The timer would start and you had 60 seconds to get all 25 of the pieces put in place and hit the stop button before the lever was tripped and the board “popped” up, scattering even the pieces that had been correctly placed.

I was good at it. I liked the task of filling the spaces with their correct piece and doing it in the time allotted. I liked being correct.

I am finding more and more that “correct” answers aren’t just sitting around, waiting to be picked up and put into the game boards of Church, Life, Job, School or Family. I am also realizing that wanting to be correct—and to be correct quickly!—was a response to the anxiety created by the timer that was ticking away the seconds, ready to pop up and startle me. (And that’s another thing—I *hate* being startled! Why the people on the game box covers always looked overjoyed or amazed when the pieces were popping up was always a mystery to me.)

Over the last month, I’ve had the opportunity to attend two worship services at Austin Presbyterian Seminary—one led by our former intern, Allison Angell, where she gave her senior sermon, and the other led by Carrie Holly-Hurt, a friend from Windsor Park who is going to seminary to become a Unitarian Universalist pastor. Though each of the services came from a different perspective, I found myself in each of them sitting in the pew having a revelation.

In Allison’s service, I found myself held, comforted, beloved—convinced that some of the more difficult circumstances of the Church, Life, Job and Family boxes of my life are not things that are going to keep me from the love of God. In Carrie’s service, I marveled at the way I felt the space around me and within me not filled, but created and expanded.

I think, if I—if we!—can remember this move, it can make a difference in how we approach God in our devotional times, our prayer life, our missional outreach, and our worship. We’re not just filling the time with readings or prayers or work or praise with “correct” pieces—we are letting the life of God expand in us. When that expansion happens in me, I sense the kind of peace that isn’t just still, but alive with hope and promise.

It also means I’m not frantically hunting, trying to find and place those correct pieces against a clock, whether those pieces are the answers to the next steps are for me or for our congregation, for family members, for our neighborhood or for our denomination.

So sit with me. It can be a quiet moment or one that has music or other ambient noise in it. It can be indoors or outdoors. It can be in the dark or in the light. The way I experienced it, I became aware of my own breath, breathing in deeply and intentionally. I let my shoulders drop and did not try to figure out “the answer”, but simply pictured and felt God, moving in the space. I knew what I could hold on to in the midst of making decisions, even though the decisions had yet to be made. I knew that I am loved. May it be also so with you.

Synthia Kepler-Harris

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: January 9, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6



Bread Church

January 20th
7pm Gym Kitchen

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Austin, Texas 78723
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Fax: 512-450-0323
Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

