

The Newsletter

Rev. Dr. Robyn Bishop - Pastor
Creating safe space to connect
and grow in Jesus Christ

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School Classes

9:30am: Children, Adult- Faith, Hope, Love

9:45am: Youth, Adult- New Friends

Worship - 11:00am

Find all our Newsletters on the

Who We Are Today tab at

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Church-Austin

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Press 1 for info, Press 2 for directory,

Press 3 to connect to the Wesley School

In this issue:

Church News,

150th Celebration

Events & Info

Prayer, Events, Games,

From Pastor Robyn

Upcoming

January 2024

January Sermon Series

**What Does It Mean To Be
“A People of God”?**



**Jan. 7 Seeking Wisdom
Mark 1:4-11**

**Jan. 14 Following
Mark 1:14-20**

**Jan. 21 Discernment
Mark 1:21-28**

**Jan. 28 Paying Attention
Mark 1:29-39**



Church news



John Alan Nixon, a man who deeply cherished his family and friends, found his greatest joy in the simple pleasures of life: spending time with his two children, on his farm and enjoying the outdoors.

John Alan, born on September 1, 1959, passed away on December 10, 2023, at his hometown of Austin, Texas. He was the beloved son of John F. Nixon and Billie Doris White Nixon. John married Tina Tiner Zapalac Nixon in 2011 and was a devoted father to their two children, Billie Florence Lois Nixon, and John William Anton Nixon.

In addition to his mother, John is also survived by his sister Gail Mohler and her husband Don of Leander, their children Jeremy (Keri) and children Dakota, Sierra, Savannah and Forrest, Marinda Katz (Ethan) and her daughter Lily Mohler, and Jonathan Mohler; and his sister Deborah Dixon and her husband Jerry of Albuquerque and their children Lauren Riley (Rustin) and their son Beau and daughter Hadley, and Evan G. Dixon.

He was a hardworking individual from a young age, with his first job at 12 years old delivering newspapers. His strong work ethic continued throughout his life – from custom hay bailing to surveying, and working at Nixon Engineering with his parents when it began 35 years ago. John Alan's father was his mentor and his best friend. John eventually became the President and CEO of Nixon Engineering, and operated the business that conducts a variety of contractor work - including traffic counting, traffic control, bridge repairs and crack sealing.

Between the three siblings, John Alan was the

greatest lover of the farm experiences, so much so that after growing up he bought property next to his mother and father's farm near Bastrop. The three owned and operated a hay-baling business and raised livestock, including cattle, goats, horses, deer, chickens, emu, and other exotic fowl.

John Alan Nixon was a true outdoorsman at heart, relishing the tranquility of early mornings on his deer lease, or spending time with his children and mother on the beach.

His family wants to thank everyone for the incredible and overwhelming outpouring of love and support and asks especially to keep his mother and two children in their thoughts and prayers in the days and months ahead.

A service was held at Memorial UMC on Dec. 17th at 1:30pm and a graveside service followed at Oak Hill Cemetery in Bastrop.

He would be honored to have contributions made in his memory to Memorial United Methodist Church at memorialumcaustin.com or your preferred charity.

The Memorial family extends it's heart and prayers to the Nixon family at this difficult time.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philipians 4:6



2 Ways to Join Others in Prayer:

- 1). Every Thursday we send an email with a list of prayer requests and reminders of upcoming events for the week. If you would like to receive this weekly email, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Kc Nixon, secretary@memorialumcaustin.com.
- 2). Afton Cherry will lead prayer in the Chapel on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- 3.) If you have a prayer request or would like to have a pastoral call, please contact Pastor Robyn, robynbmumc@gmail.com



Tacos & Talk About the Gospel

of John Come learn from the perspective of one of Jesus' closest companions, John, in a **6 week study starting Jan. 4th** and ending Feb. 9th

from 6-7:30pm. We'll have tacos, fellowship and conversation! Please email Pastor Robyn Bishop, robynbmumc@gmail.com to reserve your spot and indicate if you need childcare.

Need some quiet time in the new year?

Join this 4 week class of "Lectio Divina" Contemplation and Meditation starting the week of **January 7, 2024** for 1 hour a week on either Wednesdays at 6pm or Saturdays at 11am. Please contact Kathleen at kbeuttenmueller@gmail.com or call the church office to reserve your spot and let her know your preference of time.



January Birthdays

- 1 Jean Breazeale
- 5 Bambi Teaney
- 12 Kay Dunbar
Matthew Shelton
- 13 Kendall Smith
- 16 Carl Helge
- 17 James Shelton
- 22 Taylor Youngblood



UWF meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:30am in the Pearce Room.
Next: Jan. 17th



Pancake Breakfast

2nd Sunday of the Month
8:30 - 9:30am before Sunday School
In the Gym **NEXT: Jan. 14, 2024**

Gluten Free (GF) pancakes will be available.

A \$5 donation is appreciated.

Provided by our United Women in Faith (UWF)



All Ages Welcome! Join the Merry Makers

for games, laughter & fellowship

On the 2nd & 4th Thursdays

in Room 403 **NEXT: Jan. 11th**
(Faith, Hope & Love) Off the gym.

For more info. contact Alberta Shelton, Betty Sanders or Connie Tatom at itsjustclt@outlook.com



[www.](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)
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- **If you once had a recurring gift set up, Please go to Breeze Online Giving to set up a new one.**

150th Celebration

Thank you, Taylor, Gloria, Linda, and all who made our 150th such a wonderful Celebration!!!





.... With Love from your Pastor

We are approaching 2024! As the new year rolls in, what will you do to mark the change?

- Will you find a party to attend on New Year's Eve?
- Will you buy the fixings of black-eyed peas, corned beef and cabbage so you can eat your way into a "lucky" new year?
- Will you make a pot of chili and settle in for football playoffs?
- Will you get a new calendar and contemplate new year resolutions?

Would you consider approaching the new year by creating a "Rule of Life?" This doesn't mean you need to make a list of new rules, per say. It's about considering how much of your life is like a pinball machine bouncing off the expectations of others rather than being intentional in living out of the center of who you are. To create a "rule of life" is more of considering the "way" you live your life. It's an invitation to enter a greater way of wholeness that is just meant for you. Everyone's way is different, just as our fingerprints are different. This is an opportunity to reflect upon the rhythms of your life and consider if there is something you could change to create more space for that which is "life giving."

Throughout the fall I have been involved in a group that encourages practices for creating life giving, sacred rhythms. This group led me to this website: <https://ruleoflife.com/> Maybe you will find it helpful? Here is a book suggested for helping consider not just one's physical goals, but also goals for your soul: <https://renovare.org/books/crafting-a-rule-of-life>

"A personal rule is a way of ordering our lives to catch the wind of grace. We do not know our own measure— neither our true capabilities nor limitations. We do not persevere in our spiritual practices until they yield their full fruits. Children of a quick-fix culture, we want 'virtue without effort,' transformation without labor... A rule of life gives us a way to enter the lifelong process of personal transformation." -Marjorie Thompson

In the new year, if you would like to spend some time working through this, please let me know. And as you consider how you might want to feed your soul, consider this an invitation to join Kathleen Beuttemueller for *Lectio Devina* or me for "Tacos and Talk about the Gospel of John."

Over the course of this next year, I hope we will discover more about what our values are as a community and how they impact the direction ("the way of life") for ourselves, our church and our community at large.

Thank you so very, very much for sharing this journey! We had quite a year in 2023! We made some incredible memories, and we experienced great loss as we remembered the 7 saints of this faith community who have gone into the eternal presence of God, including our beloved John F. and John Alan Nixon. Let us trust God to show us new and beautiful things in 2024!

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19 With love and hope,

Colin Brislow

Kids & Youth



Wesley Recreation

Center is a free sports program for 5th graders. In the Winter of 2023-2024, we will be offering basketball and/or Soccer on

Mondays from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. 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 22, 29, February 5, 12, 26.

January

- ♦ **Friday thru Sunday, January 12-14 CAPITAL DISTRICT MIDWINTER RETREAT! Meet at the church at 4pm!**



- ♦ **Sunday January 28 – UMYF 6pm**

Save the Date



**Warm Up Your Pots!
Chili Cook Off Is Back!**

Feb. 7th

Sponsored by Youth Group Contact Kendall for more details.



**Feb. 25th Step
off at 2:30pm
Camp Mabry**

Hybrid options available! In 2024, we will continue to fight against disease, disaster, displacement and other challenges that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need for today and sustainable food security for tomorrow! [Austin CROP Hunger Walk](https://www.austincrop.org/)

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