

The Newsletter

January 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

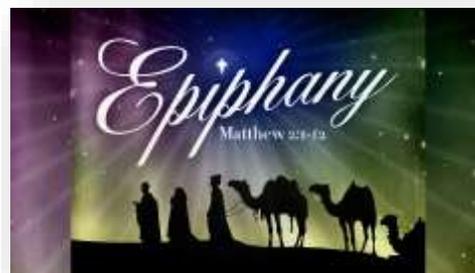
Fax: 512.450.0323



In this issue:

News from the Pews	2
Youth Events & Brown Santa.....	2
Events and Partners.....	3-4
Pastor's Corner.....	5
Calendar & Birthdays.....	6-7
Turquoise Table.....	8

January 2019



January 6th—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 14th—

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.

January 20th: 7 Deadly Sins

In our baptismal vows, we promise to "resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." This January and February, we will take a look at modern forms of those entities as we ponder the Seven Deadly Sins. Beginning January 20 in worship.





By Billie Nixon

Membership Coordinator



REVIVE
MidWinter
Camp

February 1-3



2

0

1

9

We welcome 2019 with hopeful spirits and open hearts, looking forward to what the new year will bring for our Memorial family.

If you didn't make our Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Cantata and our Christmas Eve Candlelight service in December, you missed a good time of fellowship and tradition.

To be sure to keep up with upcoming events and activities, please see future newsletters, and all past Newsletters are available online at www.MemorialUMCAustin.com and via email upon request to secretary@MemorialUMCAustin.com

Current Newsletters are available in the Narthex for a month or two.



Capital District MidWinter Camp February 22-24 at Stoney Creek Ranch (New Ulm, TX)



We collected right around \$1500 for Brown Santa.

Look for more Women's News updates in the February Newsletter.



Together We Make Children Smile



Finance Update

Thank you for your gifts and financial support of our ministries at MUMC! While we have had a good year in many ways including many opportunities to impact our neighborhood and our world, we still need your help to fulfill all of our commitments for 2018. Please remember to fulfill your pledge for this year if possible and consider a gift to help us finish strong. Remember that for tax purposes they must be postmarked by 12/31/18 or received in the office by that date. We appreciate all you do!

Pastor Cynthia and members of the Finance Team will give a report on January 6 after worship on where we anticipate ending the year and how we want to move forward into 2019 financially. All members and friends may stay in the sanctuary following worship for this important update.



Join Your Church
Every 2nd Sunday
of the month for
Pancake Breakfast in
the Gym
January 13th
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 17th in the Gym



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

Bible Study Starting in January



Starting this month, we are offering a 12-week study focused on the books of Luke and Acts. Clayton Karrer will be our teacher for this class based on the Disciple Bible Study series.

We will meet on Sunday, January 6, after church to choose a day and time for this class. If you are interested in participating, please plan on coming to this organizational meeting, and/or please contact the church office to let us know you are interested.



Life is full of choices. From the moment we wake each morning to the moment we fall asleep at night, our day

is full of choices we make. Sometimes we may not realize that seeing the good in the world around us can be an everyday, even every moment choice. Do you see the good around you? Do you see the good in the cold, rainy days? Do you see the good in the angry driver while going to work? (This could be a challenge!) Do you see the good in volunteering? This December, make a conscious choice to See the Good every day.

Why does this matter? Dr. Rick Hanson wrote an article entitled, *See the Good in Others*, and said, "Seeing the good in others is thus a simple but very powerful way to feel happier and more confident, and become more loving and more productive in the world." How do you accomplish this sometimes-difficult choice? Practice! Slow down, notice positive intentions, see abilities, and positive character traits.

Senior Access sees the good of you volunteers every day! But, do you see it? We see you taking difficult rides, last minute rides, or rides that are on the longer side. We see you taking multiple drives a week. We see you making phone calls to check on clients and see how they are doing. We see you mowing the yards or changing the lightbulbs. We see every loving volunteer act you provide. You, volunteers are essential! Do you See the Good you bring to your communities?

Senior Access sees the good of you donors who give so willingly. You provide a means for our doors to stay open, to provide a way for the clients to remain independent. You donors are essential! Do you See the Good?

Our clients come to us with varying needs, but with a common desire—to remain independent. Can you see the good that it does for our communities to help each other? As you volunteer or donate you will come to realize the truth in what Helen Keller has said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched...they must be felt with the heart."

As you approach this very busy, hectic time of year, take a moment each day to slow down and See the Good. Do you want to be a part of this group that sees and shares the good? Senior Access needs you! With a growing population of people who no longer drive, we need people like you who are willing to give what they need. To learn more about volunteering or donating to Senior Access, contact Sherrie at 512.310.1060 or vr@senioraccessstx.org or visit our webpage at www.senioraccessstx.org. Join us as we Share the Good this holiday season for our 24th Annual Mistletoe Magic Concert December 16th at 6:30 pm at the First United Methodist Church-Round Rock, 1004 N Mays St. Please visit our page at <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/senior-access-tx/mistletoe-magic-choral-concert> to purchase a luminary or make a donation for the concert.



Girl Scout Troop 172

continues to grow. Membership is at 28 now. We are the largest Troop in the Council at this time.

See Alberta Shelton for more info.

COOKIE TIME!! Jan. 16th Meet The 2019 Cookies



Thank you, Pastor Cynthia, for the invitation to preach on October 30th. It was so good to worship and be in fellowship with God's People at Memorial UMC!

As we begin a new year, I am so grateful for the hospitality you display toward – and especially to me – as we begin another year together. Thank you so much!

Kevin Murphy, Community Engagement Specialist
Church World Service



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 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!



Pastor's Corner

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, ‘Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.’” Matthew 2:1-2 (The Message translation)

A few years ago, I heard a haunting song originally written by a group called The Roches. Though the story we receive from the Bible has the scholars/Wise Men/Magi following the star to greet the new king, this song ponders whether or not a shepherd could have seen it also and wondered whether or not to follow. (If you want to listen, you can find my favorite version, recorded by Matt Alber at following link: [Star of Wonder](#))

*Star of wonder in the Heavens
Wonder what you want of me
Should I follow you tonight
Star of wonder?*

*I am just a lonely Shepherd
Watching from a distant hill
Why do you appear to me
Star of wonder?*

*If you will
In the morning they'll come looking for the
Shepherd on the hill
What would make her leave her flock?
For surely she must love them still.*

*Star of wonder in the heavens
Are you just a shining star
Or should I follow you tonight
Star of wonder?*



Scripture tells us that the shepherds were greeted by an unmistakable heavenly host, and the scholars/wise men/magi were bold enough (or rich enough!) to spend potentially two years on the road searching. But what about those of us who are not visited by unmistakable signs? What about those of us who don’t have the leisure or ability to go on what might be a wild good chase for two years?

This song asks questions I find in my real life. The Shepherd wonders what the star wants and why it’s appearing to her. She wonders how others will perceive her actions. She wonders if the star is really what she thinks it is. She says she is alone.

As we enter 2019, you may know exactly what everyone wants of you, where you’re headed and why and what the implications will be for yourself and everyone around you. But if you’re not, I invite you to sit with the Shepherd, to join a Sunday School class or consider a small group Bible study, to join the choir or to be with others who can help you ponder and wonder and see where God is leading you. May our days, as they grow lighter, be full of the knowledge and love of God.

Cynthia Kepler-Hamer



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**

Tuesday January 1 OFFICE CLOSED

10:00am BIF Rescheduled to January. 8th

Wednesday January 2

*11:00am-1pm FreeStore Shopping

*7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday January 3

Friday January 4

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

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

Saturday January 5

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

Sunday January 6

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:45am Church Council Finance Briefing (Sanctuary)

11:45am Interest meeting for Bible Study (Parlor)

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

Monday January 7

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

*6:30pm Austin Harmony - Choir room

Tuesday January 8

10:00am BIF - Pearce

6:00pm Wesley Board - Pearce

Wednesday January 9

Thursday January 10

7:00pm Austin Ukulele Society - Gym

Friday January 11

Saturday January 12

Sunday January 13 Pancake Breakfast

8:30am Pancake Breakfast - Gym Kitchen

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Trustees - Pearce

Monday January 14

6:30pm Finance Team - Pearce

Tuesday January 15 February NL Content Due

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

Wednesday January 16

Thursday January 17

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

7:00pm Bread Church - Gym

Friday January 18

Saturday January 19

Sunday January 20

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

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

Monday January 21

Office closed in observance of MLK Day.

Tuesday January 22

Wednesday January 23

Thursday January 24

Friday January 25

Saturday January 26

Sunday January 27

9:15am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am WHO Group - Pearce

Monday January 28

Tuesday January 29

Wednesday January 30

Thursday January 31

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

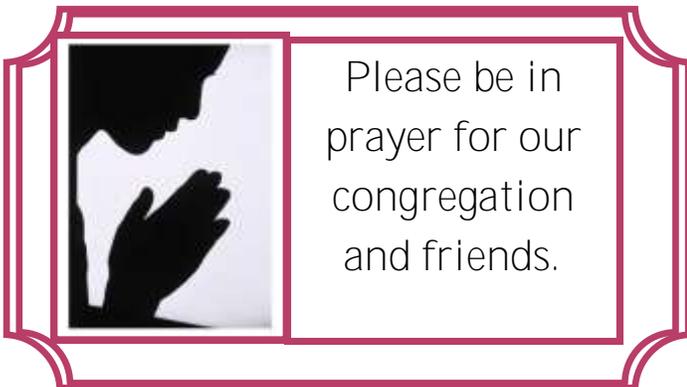
***Please Note that these ongoing events are in the same space and on the same day each week, such as: Choir Rehearsal, FreeStore Shopping, Girl Scouts, AH Choral and more.**

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
- 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
- 28th Catherine Lancaster
- 31st Kirk Amundson



Girl Scout Troop 45400

extends its deepest gratitude to the members and staff of Memorial Methodist Church.



Thank you for blessing Troop 45400 with a warm welcome to your campus in September. We will look forward to meeting members of your congregation and participating in some of your outreach ministries.

Our troop was formed after two of our co-leaders discovered a shortage of (non-school based) Girl Scout Troops in East Austin. Created to serve girls living in Windsor Park, Mueller, University Hills, Cherrywood and the surrounding areas, this is our 3rd year of scouting and we are grateful to have a comfortable meeting location for the 9 Brownie and 2 Junior scouts of our troop. Our troop is a member of the Walnut Creek Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of Central Texas.

Scouting brings together our uniquely diverse group of girls, who otherwise attend many different schools (including Blanton Elementary, Maplewood Elementary, Magnolia Montessori, Acton Academy, Paragon Prep, the Austin International School and home school co-ops). Finding friends within the neighborhood/local area has been a key benefit for our girls.

For the first 2 years of our troop, we met at the home of one of the co-leaders.

The church provides us much needed shelving space for our supplies and a child appropriate classroom space for our quieter activities. We enjoy the use of the gym for our more vigorous activities, such as those related to dancing, crafting, playing games and sports (which relate to badges the girls are working towards).

Our troop recently held our Fall campout at the Emma Long State Park, where scouts worked on requirements toward a BUG badge, the Painting badge, First Aid. They especially enjoyed climbing the large pecan trees and gathering around the evening campfire.

We are now preparing for the start of COOKIE SALES on Jan. 16, 2019. The girls are currently narrowing in on what portion of their cookie sale funds they plan to allocate for fun, charitable donations and planning future scouting activities. If anyone in the congregation would like to support our girls while satiating Thin Mint cravings, come find us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION about his press release or GIRL SCOUT TROOP 45400. contact one of the 3 co-leaders:

Christina Martin (512) 289-9564 or christina.lilyrose@gmail.com

Bridgette Beinecke – (512) 762 9300 or bridgettebeinecke@gmail.com

Erin Martin - (512) 970-1980 or erindeannmartin@gmail.com

The Newsletter

The Turquoise Table at MUMC

You may have noticed a new addition to the side of our volleyball court on the back lot—a turquoise picnic table. This was a gift from Tarrytown UMC in honor of our partnerships with the Capital District through the FreeStore.

Turquoise Tables have become a symbol of welcome in yards. They are meant to remind people to gather in community, not just become isolated in our own spaces. We hope to have our



Turquoise Table used in many places around our campus to invite our neighbors to interact with us and to remind us that we, as well as our partners through the FreeStore have committed to creative and life-giving relationships.

In January, you will be hearing about a book study that will be done in conjunction with folks from Tarrytown UMC and the FreeStore as well as our neighborhood. We hope to offer this study at a time when many people can be together to discuss and wonder how we can invite people into relationship with us and with Christ. For more information on the Turquoise Table, please visit theturquoisetable.com.

Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Berkman Drive
Austin, Texas 78723
Phone: 512-452-5796
Fax: 512-450-0323
Web site: www.memorialumcaustin.com

