

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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January 2021



Epiphany 2021

January 3rd

“Those Who Dream...Persevere”



On Epiphany, we celebrate how God’s love transverses cultural and geographical barriers to become good news for all people. We marvel at the persistence of God to shine the way for the Magi so that they might bear witness to the divine. We honor that the Magi trusted their dreams and returned home by another way. As we journey forward, we carry the dreams of our ancestors in faith. With courage and resilience, we dream on.

January 10th—

Baptism of the Lord



As we remember our baptisms, we will be looking at all of the water sources in our homes. To prepare for the service, count the number of faucets or other openings that bring water into your home. Remember to count not just the taps with running water, but even the places where water goes into appliances! If you have not been baptized and wish to speak with Pastor Cynthia about what that means, please contact the church!



News From Pews

By Billie Nixon
Membership Coordinator

Donate to Harris Elementary for needed supplies.

Normally we would collect clothing for Harris Elementary for Epiphany.

This year we aren't able to do physical collections and the school needs the flexibility to utilize funds in a way that works best during Covid, so we are encouraging you all to donate online.

Online Giving Instructions: Go to our website www.memorialumcaustin.com, scroll down a little, click Online Giving. This will bring up our giving portal, choose the fund you want to donate to: Harris Elementary, add your email address in the Note section, add the amount, click submit. This brings up your options to pay and your billing information. Quick, easy and you don't have to leave your home.

You may also mail a check to the office or drop a donation in the mail slot on the office door. Thank you for your support of our ministries with Harris families!



January Birthdays



- 1st Jean Breazeale
- 2nd Candy Valentine
- 4th Jeremy Mohler
- 5th Bambi Teaney
- 8th Mary Bryant
Forrest Mohler
- 11th Johnie Madison
- 12th Kay Dunbar
Matthew Shelton
- 13th Kendall Smith
- 16th Carl Helge
Travis Purtle
- 17th James Shelton
- 21st Clay Ericson
Eric Reinhart
- 23rd Connie Tatom
- 26th Steve Jourdan
- 31st 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. Remember that for tax purposes all gifts must be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/20.





The Pastor's Corner

“When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.” (Matthew 2:9-12)

There was a time when citrus fruits like oranges were either scarce or hard to transport, and people who lived far away from places where they were grown viewed them with awe. When I was a kid, I remember there being “hard to get” Christmas gifts almost every year that were treated like gold, frankincense and myrrh. Everything from Cabbage Patch Kids to Teddy Ruxpin and in the early part of this century things like Tickle Me Elmo.

What is the rarest gift you have received? Perhaps it wasn't something that made the lists that year, but it was something you hadn't expected because it seemed out of reach. Maybe it was from someone you couldn't imagine getting you a gift because you were not worthy of their notice or because it would seem too much like a dream come true.

And then there's the other important question—what is the rarest gift you've given? The gift that someone was not either expecting or that you were glad to be able to find? How did giving that gift change you?

The wise men gave their gifts—the gold probably the rarest of them—and then they went away changed. Tales and stories are built up around them since this passage is all we really know about them. But we remain fascinated that they went home by another way.

In a year where we've all tried to figure out how to do almost EVERYTHING in a different way, it would be nice to have some normal. It would be nice to take a familiar path and find ourselves in the place that we always knew. But as Christians, the “other roads” should not be unfamiliar to us, and both the remembrance of our encounters with Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit give us confidence that God is on those “other roads” too.

This recipe is different from almost any other bread I've ever made since it starts with a regular dough and then adds so many other main ingredients squished together into it. With the orange and the chocolate (another once rare substance), it reminds me of the kings.

Ingredients:

2 1/2 tsp. dry yeast 1 1/2 c. water 3 1/2 c. unbleached flour 1 1/2 tsp. salt

Mix and knead all of these together until a smooth ball is formed. Cover and let rise in a clean bowl until roughly doubled (about 1-2 hours). Then mix into the dough (easiest to squish in with your hands):

8 oz. roughly chopped bittersweet chocolate 4 oz. roughly chopped semisweet chocolate
2 oz. roughly chopped milk chocolate 1 cup hazelnuts, toasted and roughly chopped
2 Tbsp. butter, softened 1 egg, beaten 1 tsp. (or to taste) orange extract
enough flour to make it workable (1/4-1/2 c.)

Roughly knead until all ingredients are distributed and form into a loaf.

Place into a greased 9x5 loaf pan. Preheat oven to 350. Let the dough rise until it comes about an inch above the top of the pan. Bake for 40 minutes—it should be lightly browned (you can tent it with aluminum foil if it's too brown). Internal temperature is difficult to take because of the chocolate but should be around 190. LET COOL. Share.

And as different as this recipe is, it still brings me back to a loaf of bread, cooling on a rack in my kitchen. May your journey this year take you by those “other roads”...and then may it find you at last in a place which God has made your home.

January Newsletter

COVID is on the rise in Central Texas. If you aren't already following it, this website has much of the information that goes into the decision making process for our congregation's activities:

<https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/39e4f8d4acb043bae6d15a931fa984>



Right now we are in Stage 4, but we have reached the thresholds for Stage 5, which would advise us to limit gatherings of even non-at-risk people outside of the same household to 2.

Normally, we would be planning our Chili Cookoff and other related Winter events, but this year, we want everyone to stay safe! In place of the Cookoff, please send your favorite soup/stew/chili recipes to us so that we can virtually sent them out in our weekly emails and newsletter mailings!

Please stay safe, wear a mask, keep your distance and consult with your physician about the availability and appropriateness of the vaccines! Pray for one another, continue to pray for our schools at 5:11pm every day, and pray for leaders in our community and in the church!

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