

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.

Find all our Newsletters on our

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June 2021



By now, most of you know that the recommendations for how people interact with each other in terms of COVID-19 are changing rapidly. There are also widely differing recommendations for different groups of people:

- ◆ Those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not
- ◆ Those who have complicating health issues or those who live or work with those who have complicating health issues
- ◆ Those who are more isolated
- ◆ Those in different age categories

While our re-engagement task force will do our best to keep up with how we can best balance the needs and recommendations for all of these groups, we hope that you will not only be praying for us, but that you will help us by sticking with the protocols as we modify them (you will always be able to read a current set on our website at memorialumcaustin.com/COVIDinfo). Because this is an all-volunteer task force, we won't be able to turn on a dime, but we can assure you that we are still working on it!

We know that each business and organization will have a different approach to how they manage their own needs and the needs of their customers or members, so just know that we may be more restrictive than some and less restrictive than others at times. Inevitably, we will disappoint some and make others nervous, but we pray that we can always find a way to let the Love of Christ shine through each of us to reach out to each other. We will also continue to look at publicly available data around vaccination rates, hospitalization rates and transmission rates to make sure we are making our decisions based on facts.

Right now, we are having lots of conversations to begin bringing various groups back into the building—if you or your group would like to talk, please email or get in touch with us to see how and if we can do that!



News From Pews



Sympathy



Our beloved mother, Norma Ann Byrd Hauser, 84 years young of Pflugerville, Tx. joined our Heavenly Father on April 28, 2021. Norma was born on December 2, 1936 to William Reagan Byrd and Thelma Faye Boyd Byrd. She was predeceased by her parents and brother, Michael Reagan Byrd.

Norma is survived by her loving husband of 65 years Robert Carlat "Bob" Hauser, their children Robert Reagan "Reggie" Hauser (Cammie), Robin Ann Hauser Jalufka (Danny), and Ruth Ellen Hauser Klanika (Troy); 10 grandchildren; Julie Ann Jalufka Kurio (Peyton), Ashley Layne Todd Danks, (Jordan), Jacob Brandon Todd (Nikkie), Robert "Ryan" Hauser, Kendall Marie Hauser Sanchez (Marc), Jacob Daniel "Jake" Jalufka, Wesley Reagan Barret Hauser, Emily Madison Klanika, Eryn Gabrielle Hauser and Grayson Troy Klanika. 7 great-grands: Cooper Isiah Danks, Caleb Elijah Danks, Elliot Marie Sanchez, Jackson Brody Todd, Kenna Grace Kurio, Davis Wade Sanchez, Tatum Quinn Sanchez and 3 more on the way.

Norma is also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, neighbors, and extended family that she has always loved and supported unconditionally.

Service was held on Saturday, May 15th at 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, Pflugerville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Austin, for the wonderful care they have given our family during her 6-week battle with Cancer. Please share condolences at www.beckchapels.com

**Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to
Norma's family and friends.**



June Birthdays

- 2 Cliff Masters**
- 7 Tina Zapalac-Nixon**
- 9 Courtney May**
- 10 Kathy Reinhart**
- 16 Pat Marcum**
- Stephanie Smith**
- Nicole Teaney**
- 19 Joseph Teaney**
- 20 Joanne Macon**
- 21 Patty Marcum**
- 22 Aiden Rodgers**
- 24 Tamara Teaney**
- 25 Chuck Garner**
- Rev. Cynthia Kepler-Karrer**
- 30 Lauren Batts**



Wednesday
June 9th & 23rd
Choir Rehearsals
@ 7:00pm

CLASS of 2021



Courtney Wynn Garner, daughter of Chuck & Paula and sister of Christine Garner graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder on May 06, 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts & Sciences in Ecology and Environmental Biology with a Minor in Geology. She still resides in Boulder and is currently a researcher performing scientific studies gathering insect data from high in the Colorado mountains.

She is considering Graduate School in order to teach at CU Boulder.



Phoenix Petersen, daughter of Malena (Nini) and Jason Petersen, granddaughter of Afton Cherry, goddaughter of Kiki Corry, is graduating from Chaparral Star Academy. She is interested in graphic design and ocean sciences and will be going to A&M Galveston in the fall.



Wesley Recreation: Thanks to all the volunteers and youth who participated in Wesley Recreation's spring soccer session. We were successful each week as we offered soccer to youth of the church, Windsor Park neighborhood, and beyond.



Thanks to all the volunteers, youth and the Memorial's Innovation team for a great semester of the cooking club. We will start back up in the fall at the beginning of next school year. We look forward to creating new meals and memories with our students next school year.



The end of the year trip for youth 6th- 12th grade will be happening Monday June 7th. The youth will be starting off the summer with waterpark fun. For inquiries please contact Daphne.

SUMMER 2021 Portland, TX June 20-24th Theme: GOD AT WORK > CREATING

Each Region is making plans on how to best accommodate mission opportunities. This past summer U.M. Army had incredible mission experiences in local communities that engaged youth, young adults, adult volunteers and families of all ages! A variety of Clients were served. Some were similar to our traditional U.M. ARMY experience. In these instances, homes were repaired, repainted, yard work was accomplished, and ramps were built... New opportunities were also discovered in local communities and U.M. ARMY participants connected with other non-profits, churches, and individuals in creative ways! In the end, people felt like they had "been to U.M. ARMY!"





The Pastor's Corner

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-4)

One of the joys of Central Texas is the sheer variety of insects it is possible to come in contact with—and even learn from! A few years ago, I was in our driveway when I saw a long line of ants, marching in two different directions, half of them carrying leaves back to a mound that was just starting to form off of our carport. They were fascinating with the way they seemed to communicate and work together.

I am less fascinated now. It seems that this particular variety of ant is pretty much immune to a lot of insecticides or ways to control the population that has exploded around our house. Working together, they can strip a flowering tree of its bright leaves within days, leaving a trail of pink and red blossoms along with a small mound of them to mark the entrance to their lair.

So when a friend posted a message that talked about an encounter she had with them in a nature preserve, talking about how they reminded her that we are made to work in community, I was reminded that there are many perspectives and ways to see how nature functions around me. It is possible that in that preserve, they are a vital part of the ecosystem!

But then my friend, Kevin Murphy also commented on that message. His own perspective reminded me of something vital—something that this passage from Philippians talks about. He said, “My take: these little suckers are incredible and if the only lesson is unity of purpose and working together, they are a great example. What’s missing is that they are driven without regard to anything or anyone else around them. I think of Robert Moses, the architect of mid-20th Century NY. He was the master builder—highways, expressways, bridges, parks and tunnels. Laser-focused but with no regard for the consequences imposed on hundreds of thousands of people and thousands of communities. We are at our best when we have purpose and skill and mutual regard for how our actions impact others.”

Both of my friends reminded me of the truth of this passage from Philippians, which contains both the admonition to the community to work together—to “be of full accord and of one mind” AND to look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Everyone can point to the divisions in our society, our politics, the Church. If we are faithful to our gospel call, we have long and hard work ahead of us to speak with each other and listen to one another in order to understand and discern God’s hope for us, to move together through confession, repentance, forgiveness and celebration.

We *will* all need to work together in those places. We *will* need to remember that everyone has a gift to bring to the picture and everyone can contribute.

But we will also need to realize that not all single-minded working together is for the good of others. This pandemic has shown me over and over again that our greatest gift is to do things that don’t just care for ourselves, but to do things we wouldn’t normally do in order to care for others. We balance our own needs with the needs of others and try to make sure that we are working together, especially taking into account one another’s vulnerabilities.

God has given us the gift of community, and God has asked us to use that gift for the sake of others. Thanks be to God.



Synthia Kepler-Karrer

May Newsletter



CROP HUNGER WALK



First, an update: in the May newsletter, I reported to you – with Joy! – that Austin’s CROP Hunger Walk had raised over \$77,000; exceeding the 2020 Walk total. Today, I am thrilled to report that the Walk total will exceed \$80,000 with several churches informing us of additional funds to be remitted. Even better – Church World Service (CWS) grants have been sent to the local hunger-fighting partners supported by the event: the Central Texas Food Bank, Casa Marianella, Hope Food Pantry, i-ACT’s For Refugees Program, Urban Roots, Mt. Olive Baptist Church Food Pantry, and Micah 6.

I also want to celebrate with you that CWS has received a 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator – CN’s highest rating. There are several components to CN’s ratings. The one component I want to highlight with you is that CWS received a rating of 97% in the area of Accountability. As a staff person, this warms my heart. As a CWS supporter, I hope it does that for you, too.

Finally, today (May 4th) is the 75th Anniversary of CWS – born out of the incredible humanitarian disaster after WW2. Seventeen denominations joined to do together what they knew they could not do alone. Happy Birthday, CWS!

Kevin Murphy, CWS
Community Engagement
Manager



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