

# 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 the  
Web site: [www.memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com)

Find us on Facebook at  
Memorial United Methodist Church-Austin

### Email:

[secretary@memorialumcaustin.com](mailto:secretary@memorialumcaustin.com)

Phone: 512. 452.5796

Fax: 512.450.0323



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# 2023 JUNE



## Sunday June 4th After Worship

**This will be Cynthia and Clayton's last Sunday in worship with us. The SPRC is hosting a potluck luncheon so we can celebrate Cynthia and Clayton's twelve years with us and bless them as they start a new chapter of their lives in Kingsville!**

Meat will be provided, but we ask that everyone planning to attend sign up to bring one or two sides. Sign up by speaking with any of the SPRC members: Kendall, Afton, Cesar, Alberta or Billie. See you there! Thank you, SPRC

## Guest Speaker



June 11th: Alberta Shelton

June 18th: Kathleen Beutenmueller



June 25th:  
Hymn Sing

# Congratulations 2023 class of

**Allison Angell** graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity.

A former ministerial intern for Memorial UMC, Allison affirmed her call to pastoral care. She is currently doing a residency in a hospital chaplain position here in Austin.

At graduation, APTS announced that Allison won an award for excellence among her classmates in the field of pastoral care and that she had won a fellowship award for Biblical exegesis (study of the scriptures).

\*Donald Capps Award in Pastoral Care and the Alsup-Frierson Fellowship for Excellence in Biblical Studies



**AUSTIN**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY



**Hannah Engebretson** graduated with honors from UT with a BSA in Honors Biology and a Religious Studies minor. She will be attending Baylor College of Medicine in Houston starting this summer with plans to become an oncologist.



**Dylan Disu**, godson of Kc Nixon, graduated from University of Texas with a Major in Human Dimensions of Organizations and a Minor in Business.

A Hendrickson HS graduate in 2019, began at Vanderbilt

University and transferred after two years to attend his 'dream school' as a Junior at UT. He earned many 'Player of the Game' honors and was named Most Outstanding Player of the Big 12 Conference Championship Tournament in 2023. He was also named an Academic Big 12 All Star for 2023.

He is returning to UT for his 'super senior' year and will be pursuing a Masters in Sports Management.



**Christine Garner** graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) and a Minor in Business on May 6th.

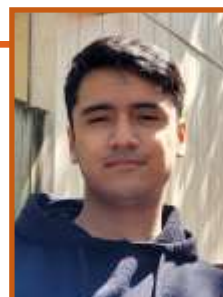
In 2021, she spent 5 months studying abroad in Copenhagen and in 2022, she completed a 6 month residency at an

architecture firm in NYC.

She is excited to continue working and pursue her architecture license. Very proud parents! Her Aggie Mom and especially her Longhorn Dad!



**Matt Ortiz** has been our Youth Intern since November of 2021 and has done a marvelous job working with both our youth program and our neighborhood youth outreach program, Wesley Recreation. Matt completed his degree requirements at the University of Texas last December and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the School of Liberal Arts in Sustainability Studies and a minor in Government. He will participate in university-wide commencement ceremonies on May 6<sup>th</sup> at DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium. In addition to working at Memorial UMC he is also currently the full-time intern at the Texas Wesley of Austin, the Methodist student ministry





based near UT that we have supported for years.

Matt is also on the Rio Texas Conference board of UMARMY and will be the **Camp Director** at not one but **two** UMARMY mission trips this summer: one for college students May 14-20 in the Corpus Christi area and the one our youth will attend June 11-16 in the New Braunfels area.

After this summer, Matt plans to continue at both Memorial and Texas Wesley for another year and has been exploring various seminaries where he hopes to enroll after this next year and pursue full time vocational ministry.

We have been blessed to also get to know his family as they have visited worship and even helped with our outreach events since Matt came. His sister Miranda and his brother Jacob have also been leaders at the Texas Wesley and blessed us here at Memorial along with his mom and dad, Edna and David, all from Del Rio, Texas! Congratulations, Matt, and family!



**Lily Gail Mohler** graduated from McNeil High School and was active in the Art Club.

Great granddaughter of John & Billie Nixon, granddaughter of Gail & Don Mohler who were members of Memorial for many years, and daughter of Marinda Mohler Katz.



She plans to pursue a degree in Art Studies at ACC and transfer to Texas State University. Lily is starting a commission website to sell her customized digital and hand-drawn artwork.



**Tim Johns**, godson of Kc Nixon, is a proud member of the Round Rock High School class of 2023.

Following graduation, Tim will be participating in a gap year wilderness education through the National Outdoor Leadership

School, beginning with a three-week service expedition in the Adirondacks.

Tim is an avid outdoorsman who loves backpacking, hunting, and camping. He is exploring career paths that will enable him to spend his time in the beautiful outdoors in service to those around him.



Twins **Sarah and Jacob Shelton** graduated from Round Rock High School. The children of John & Kristen Shelton, grandchildren of

Alberta Shelton. Both were in the Dragon band, Sarah plays the clarinet and Jacob is a percussionist.

Sarah and Jacob are very active with the youth program at Bethany UMC.

Sarah will attend Texas State University to attain her teaching degree for elementary age. Jacob will attend ACC and will decide from there what he will study.



**Kent Wallace Barrett**, oldest grandson of Marsha and Wallace Fowler, graduates from Madison Central High School in Madison, Mississippi, on May 20, 2023.

Kent is the son of Bret

Joseph Barrett, M.D., and Tracy Fowler Barrett, M.D. Kent has accumulated 12 hours of college credit during his senior year in high school.





## On June 4th @ 3pm Gym Community Bread Church Celebration

hosted by Pastor Cynthia  
for the congregation and

anyone else from the community and neighborhood. She has a lot of ingredients that she doesn't want to move with, and she will have a whole notebook of all of the recipes we have learned over the course of the last seven years! There will be different kinds of bread to snack on, and you'll have an opportunity to make a loaf of bread if you would like!



UWF Salad Luncheon  
Wednesday June 21 @  
10:30am in Pearce

**\* No July Meeting\***



United  
Women  
in Faith

UWF will be accepting  
donations year round of  
underwear & sports bras

for Harris Elementary and diapers and snacks for Wesley School. If you would like more details and specifics please call Alberta Shelton at 512-300-3796 A collection bin will be at the back of the sanctuary for your generous donations. Thanks in advance!



## June & July Youth Schedule

UMARMY is at Gruene UMC, June 11-16.  
Revive Summer Camp July 16-20



## 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



[www. memorialumcaustin.com](http://www.memorialumcaustin.com) or link here:  
[Breeze Online Giving](#)

**Instructions:** 1. Enter Amount 2. Enter Fund to Direct Your Gift/Payment  
3. Choose One Time or Recurring Setting  
4. Enter Payment Method & Details  
5. Choose whether to include the cost incurred by MUMC to process your gift based on the amount

**\*\*If you had a recurring gift set up, you will need to go to Breeze Online Giving to set up a new one.**

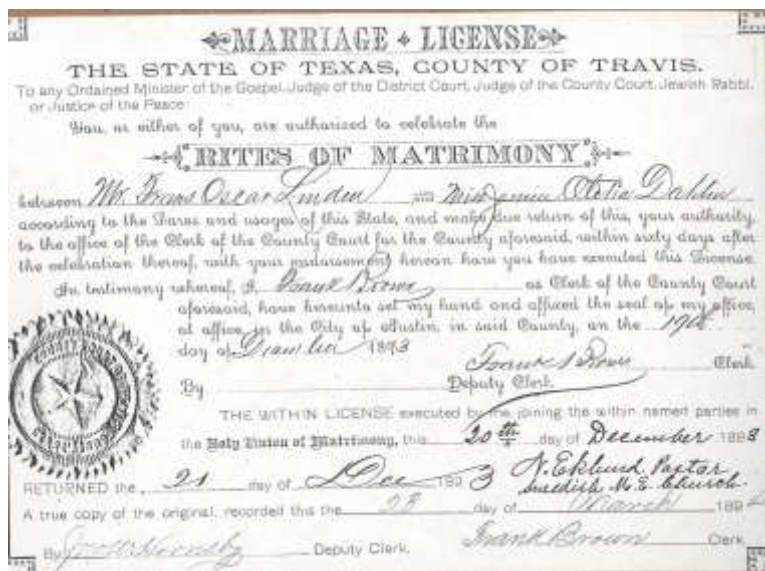




By Gloria McPhail

1874 – The first couple married by Pastor C. Charnquist, was Lars Johan Lindahl to Mathilda Kristina in the Swedish Methodist Church in Austin, TX. (Note: Lars Lindahl died in 1881)

1893 - The marriage license of Frans Oscar Linden to Jennie Otelia Dahlin on Dec. 20 by Pastor N. Eklund of Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church. (Wedding & License pictured below). Jennie Sanders, Betty Sanders daughter, was named after both of her great grandmothers.



1942—A Tom Thumb wedding (pictured below), also call a miniature wedding, is a pageant were the children act out the marriage ceremony. It was popular in 1900's, inspired by 1863 wedding between Charles Stratton and Lavinia Warren. Both were no more than three feet tall. He was a comedian and an all- around entertainer, she was a silent film star. They met P. T. Barnum, he changed Charles' name to Tom Thumb. Barnum made it a grand event, selling wedding tickets to the public. The couple was invited to the White House by President Lincoln. They toured the world with P. T. Barnum.



The event made the Austin-American Statesman, May 31, 1942. Article title "Tom Thumb Wedding" Hosted by Woman's Society of Christian Service of Central Methodist Church. The program was open to the public with a reception that followed. Rev. Howe's granddaughter, Elfieda Marko, was listed as a guest.  
Note: Rev. Howe was the eighth pastor to service this congregation.

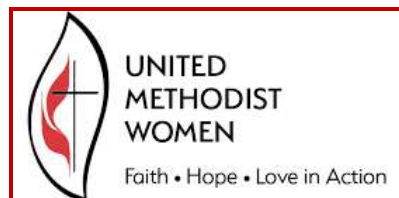
Left: Matron of honor- Nancy Olson,  
Maid of honor- Sharon Raven  
Best Man-Kenneth Palmer,  
Minister, Gene Palmer



Bride- Carol Hallen  
Groom- Leisnger Raven



## **Founded on the basis helping women and children at home and abroad.**



In 1884 the Woman's Missionary Society Evangelical Association divided into two groups: Woman's Missionary Society and the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society. Then in 1922 came back together as Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1910 two groups of Methodist Woman joined together to form Woman's Missionary Council.

1878- Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

1890- Woman's Home Missionary Society

In 1939 the groups of Methodist Woman joined together to form Woman's Society of Christian Service Wesleyan Service Guild.

1869-Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church)

1879- Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church, South)

1880-Woman's Home Missionary Society (Methodist Episcopal Church)

1893- Woman's Home Missionary Society (Methodist Protestant)



In 1946 these two groups of Methodist Woman's groups joined together to form Women Society of World Service.

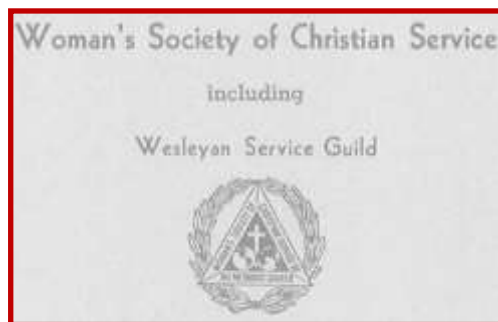


1875- Women's Missionary Association

1922- Woman's Missionary Society

In 1972 all the Woman groups joined to form The United Methodist Women

Today we are United Women in Faith.





## *The Pastor's Corner*

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

I have tried for weeks now to come up with an appropriate verse to share with you to sum up the last 12 years. It's strange to think about packing and moving to Kingsville when I have become so deeply embedded in this community. But—the transition has started, and moving day is June 28.

I said in my announcement letter that I am grateful for all the ways God has worked through our time—that I am certain that there have been seeds sown which will continue to bear fruit both in the congregation and in the mission field. And I will admit that I am anxious.

I am anxious that I will leave well. I am anxious that I will arrive in the new place well. I am anxious about being farther away from family members who we will need to continue to care for. I am anxious for how I will prepare this congregation to receive their new pastor and that I will give that person what they need to provide continuity of pastoral leadership, especially since they will be part-time. And that June 28 date looms as a hard deadline.

As of June 28, I will no longer be able to say what I've said almost every single Sunday in the streaming service—that it is my privilege to serve as a pastor in the Northeast area of Austin, helping to lead the congregation at Memorial. With my last Sunday in the pulpit being June 4, I've tried to leave room for some administrative details as well as some individual visiting with you all before June 28, even if I'm not in worship.

Anxiety is not something that only the pastor goes through. I'm sure many of you are anxious too—about what the new pastor will be like, about whether you will like them, about whether they will like you. And you may be anxious too that the change isn't happening soon enough for you!

And it's quite potentially possible that your new pastor (whoever they may be) will also be feeling some anxiety about whether or not they will be able to find everything they need or whether they will step into situations and say something hurtful or whether they will get some details wrong. They may be anxious about what it means to be a part-time person in a congregation and property that has never experienced that before.

So if everyone is anxious in this situation, perhaps the greatest thing we could be doing right now is offering one another grace. And praying for one another, especially giving thanks for one another and finding words and actions that convey that thanksgiving! There are not enough words for me to show you everything that is in my heart, so I will give it to God and trust that what I do manage to say will convey in any small part to you all the deep deep love of God whose depths we cannot plumb but surrounds each of us every single day no matter where we are.

And we continue to talk about Good News. Because the Good News is for moments of great joy and celebration as much as it is for moments of anxiousness and release.

And we pastors are all asked, when we leave a place to the next person (whether we are moving or retiring), to really make sure that person is allowed to be the person you look to. Our system asks that we not return to the places we have been for moments of pastoral care or celebration. And that may be hard on all of us, but it's even harder when the new pastor feels excluded from learning who you are and how you grieve and celebrate because you still are calling on a previous pastor to do that with you.

That being said, please trust that I will never stop praying for you. There are still former congregants who I remember with thanksgiving in my prayers! You all will be among them. For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, praise!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Kepler-Kramer".

# June Newsletter

## COMING SOON!



As of the printing of this newsletter, we have not yet heard who is being appointed to Memorial UMC. BUT—we are preparing! Here are some healthy

ways to welcome your new pastor.

Be praying already for them

When we do learn the name, consider writing a postcard or other brief note, welcoming them (these can be delivered all together when they arrive)

Practice introducing yourself and wearing a name tag

Keep on giving to the church (this takes a lot of stress off the new pastor)

If you are in leadership, consider writing out a description of what you are currently doing

For ministries like Sunday School classes or UWF, have someone in the group write a description of your current activities or current curriculum

If you are not subscribed to our email list or do not have email and wish to be on a phone list for important announcements (like who the new person will be), please let the church office know immediately!

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Fax: 512-450-0323

Phone: 512-452-5796

Austin, Texas 78723

6100 Berkman Drive

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